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SABALENKA LIGHTS UP MELBOURNE 'ARYNA'

Aryna Sabalenka beat Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina at Australian Open on Saturday

THE BELARUSIAN ROARS BACK IN FINAL

The 24-year-old from Belarus dropped her first set of 2023 in the final but roared back to win 4-6, 6-3, 6-4. Sabalenka has now won all 11 matches she has contested this season. Big-serving Rybakina is the latest to succumb to her power game and new-found mental strength. It is in stark contrast to a year ago when Sabalenka's serve and nerves were her biggest enemies

HARD WORK PAYS OFF

- Sabalenka hit an astonishing 51 winners and 17 aces in 2 and 1/2 hours of gruelling tennis. She now has 4-0 record against Rybakina
- The men's final will be played between Novak Djokovic of Serbia (chasing his 22nd Slam title) and Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas (yet to win a Major). Djokovic has never lost an Australian Open final | P11

No. 2

SABALENKA WILL NOW RISE TO SECOND IN THE WORLD RANKINGS

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

BIG OUTLAY FOR CAPITAL SPEND IN TNSE SHADOW BUDGET

SUNITHA NATTI

THERE are budget wish lists. There are sectoral spending estimates. Then there are income and expenditure projections with achingly specific detail on fiscal deficit. But few venture on a complex, national accounting exercise, which looks and talks exactly like a union budget. In a first, this newspaper gave it a shot.

The Shadow Budget 2024 explored if there are any different and efficient ways of maximising income and expenditure. Turns out, there aren't many.

Anil K Sood, Founder, Institute for Advanced Studies in Complex Choices, an economic research firm, painstakingly punched in the numbers and proposed, what he calls, a business-as-usual budget for FY24.

Sood's sums include an exhaustive account of revenue and spending, broken down all the way to department-wise revenue and capital expenditure allocations, alongside the receipts budget comprising tax, non-tax revenue and debt and capital receipts. Given the uncertain global conditions, he pegged real GDP growth at a conservative 6% in FY24. In all, expenditure budget was set at ₹45.67 lakh crore, an increase of 11.1% over FY23's revised estimates of ₹41 lakh crore, up from the budget estimate of ₹39 lakh crore.

As a percentage of GDP, FY24 expenditure stood at 15.2%. Gross tax revenue will likely increase by 13.1% at ₹34.40 lakh crore. He proposed no changes to personal income taxes but expects FY24 budget to tinker with the long-term capital gains tax.

Within indirect taxes, GST will likely retain its star performance with a 14.3% growth, while customs and excise duties together will likely fetch a handsome ₹5.7 lakh crore revenue. Still, borrowings are estimated to jump 4.8% to ₹17.85 lakh crore, while fiscal deficit is pegged at 5.9% in FY24. A similar 50-60 bps deficit correction next two years should help meet the 4.5% target by FY26.

Subsidy outgo will likely moderate at ₹4.25 lakh crore, or 1.4% of GDP, while capital expenditure is expected to increase by a neat 13.3%. At ₹8.15 lakh crore, it is 2.67% of GDP.

FM likely to live within means | P10

BUDGET AT A GLANCE *(In crore rupees)*

CATEGORIES	FY23 BE	FY23 SBE	FY24 SBE	FY24 SBE % growth	FY24 SBE % of GDP
Total Expenditure	39,44,909	41,12,597	45,67,959	11.1	15.07
Total Receipts	39,44,909	41,12,597	45,67,959	11.1	15.07
Revenue receipts	22,04,422	23,47,280	26,91,670	14.7	8.8
Net tax revenue	19,34,771	20,63,662	23,70,367	14.9	7.82
Borrowings and other Liabilities/Fiscal deficit	16,61,196	17,03,110	17,85,353	4.8	5.9
Primary deficit	7,77,298	7,20,545	7,52,214	4.5	2.39

WHAT'S A SHADOW BUDGET

Prevalent in countries like the UK. Presented by the opposition, involving economists, think tanks, academics and civilians, it offers an alternative take on spending and revenue raising measures

1 IAF pilot dead, 2 safe as Sukhoi, Mirage jets crash

Mid-air collision angle during operational training being investigated

ANURAAG SINGH @Bhopal

TWO front-ranking combat fighter jets of the Indian Air Force — a Mirage-2000 and a Sukhoi Su-30 — crashed in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh on Saturday morning.

Confusion persisted over whether there was a midair collision between the Russian-designed Sukhoi Su-30 and French Mirage-2000. IAF officials merely said the two fighters were on a routine operational training mission.

A pilot identified as Wg Cdr Hanumanth Rao Sarathi (flying the Mirage-2000) died in the accident. The two other pilots (flying the Sukhoi Su-30) ejected safely and were flown away by an IAF helicopter for medical treatment.

The SU-30MKI is a twin-seater combat jet, while the Mirage 2000, manufactured by French aerospace major Dassault Aviation, is single-seater.

Villagers said the body parts of the dead pilot were scattered in a large area, where the debris of the Mirage-2000 he was flying was also found.

Burning debris of a fighter jet that crashed in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district | PTI

Local village sarpanch Shailendra Shakya said: "Flashes of fire were seen in one of the aircraft's rear portions, after a boom. While one of the planes which had caught fire was seen nosediving into the Pahargarh forests, the other aircraft glided towards the forest area of adjoining Rajasthan. We also saw two pilots descending with their parachutes. We spotted them on the ground 15-20 minutes later."

While the two IAF fighters crashed in Manpur village of Pahargarh forest area in Morena district of MP's Gwalior-Chambal region, the major portion of the Sukhoi was strewn in the Pingora area of Bharatpur in Rajasthan.

Morena district collector Ankit Asthana said both aircraft crashed in Morena district's territory, but since the ejection of the pilots happened safely from the Su-30 aircraft at a high altitude, both landed safely in Morena, while their aircraft crashed into the jungles of Bharatpur in Rajasthan. The IAF has ordered an inquiry.

Part of same base

Both the jets took off from the Gwalior Air Force station, which has both Sukhoi and Mirage fighter jets

Belagavi's son had led Rafale fleet

AMIT S UPADHYE & SUNIL PATIL @Hubballi/Belagavi

A pall of gloom descended on Belagavi when one of its brave sons Wing Commander **Hanumanth Sarathi** (36) died in a tragic air crash involving another fighter aircraft near Gwalior Air Base on Saturday.

Known as the finest pilot of his squadron, the officer had led the team of pilots who brought the first fleet of Rafale aircraft to India.

"Co-pilots and officials working with him always spoke highly of him and his piloting skills. For us schoolmates, he came across as the most humble guy with no attitude. He was smart in school and joined the National Defence Academy (NDA) soon after clearing his class 12 exams," recalled a batchmate of the Wing Commander in Kendriya Vidyalaya in Belagavi.

While his father served in the Indian Army, his elder brother Praveen Sarathi is a Group Captain in the Indian Air Force (IAF). Praveen's wife also serves in the IAF. The Wing Commander is survived by his wife and two children. Group Captain Praveen Sarathi reached Gwalior to receive the mortal remains of his brother, who was killed while flying a Mirage 2000 fighter aircraft.

Born on October 28, 1987 in Belagavi, Hanumanth Sarathi underwent NDA training in Khadakwasla Centre in Pune before joining the IAF.

CONTINUED ON: P5

VAX
4 lakh doses to expire

A report released by Karnataka Health Department says that one lakh doses will expire by January 31 and the total stock of 4.3 L by February end | P3

NEW NAME, OLD CHARM

The iconic Mughal Gardens at Rashtrapati Bhavan was renamed as Amrit Udyan on Saturday and will open to public from January 31 | PTI

IPC, CrPC will be made more effective: Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Dharwad/Hubballi

UNION Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah said on Saturday that changes will be made to the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and Evidence Act with help from forensic and other crime detection experts with an aim to improve the conviction rate in the country. After laying the foundation for the seventh campus of the National Forensic Science University at UAS campus on Saturday, Shah said that India is the only country which has an exclusive university for studying forensic sciences. In the next five years, India will be on top in terms of forensic expertise, he predicted.

After Delhi, Karnataka is the state with a good record of immediate FSL expert visit to the crime scene which helps in early detection of cases in a scientific way. These days criminals are also using technology which underscores the need for upgrading forensic expertise to control the increasing crime rate, he added. P4

China focus of Indian N-arms: Report

MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

INDIA is gradually reorienting its nuclear deterrence posture and widening its focus from Pakistan to China, according to a research paper published by the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*.

It claims India is strengthening its nuclear triad and will increase its production of weapons-grade plutonium required to produce nuclear warheads.

The paper jointly written by Hans M Kristensen and Matt Korda titled 'Indian nuclear weapons, 2022' says while India's primary deterrence relationship is with Pakistan, its nuclear modernisation indicates it is putting increased emphasis on its future strategic relationship with China. "Nearly all of India's new Agni missiles have ranges that suggest China is their primary target. This posture is likely to have been reinforced after the 2017 Doklam standoff," it said.

The expansion of India's nuclear forces against a militarily superior China (in terms of both conventional and nuclear forces) will result in significant new capabilities being deployed over the next decade, the research paper said. "This development could potentially also influence how India views the role of its nuclear weapons against Pakistan," it added.

Quoting an analyst, it said, "we may be witnessing what I call a 'decoupling' of Indian nuclear strategy between China and Pakistan. The force requirements India needs in order to credibly threaten assured retaliation against China may allow it to pursue more aggressive strategies — such as escalation dominance or a 'splendid first strike' — against Pakistan."

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS | BRIGHTSIDE

ALMANAC TODAY
Sunday: 29/01/2023 • Year: Shubhakruta • Ayana: Uttharayana
Ritu: Sishira • Masa: Magha • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Ashtami 12.49 pm
Nakshatra: Bharani 12.35 am • Mesha in Vrishabha Rashi • Rahukaala: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Gulikakala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am Yamaganda: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 13°C | MAX 28°C
FORECAST Partly cloudy

Sunrise 6.47 am
Sunset 6.19 pm
Moonrise 12.26 am
Moonset 12.29 pm

02 BENGALURU SUNDAY 29.01.2023 newindianexpress.com

LIVELI-WOOD

THE INVASIVE LANTANA

Lantana camara is an invasive species posing serious problems to the wildlife and its habitat. Overall, about 38 per cent or 362 hectares of the Bandipur Tiger Reserve is covered with high density of lantana. Here, lantana dominates the flora and is impenetrable to wild animals. Another 50 per cent or 470 hectares of BTR is covered with moderate density lantana, where few other plants are present. Remaining 12 per cent or 114 hectares is covered by the low-density of lantana.

We are planning to market and supply lantana crafts to all the resorts based on demand and also through other marketing agencies at Mysuru and Bengaluru

P Ramesh Kumar, Director, BTR

BK LAKSHMIKANTHA @ Mysuru

LANTANA camara, an invasive species that threatens the country's forests, is now lighting up the lives of tribal families of Kaniyanapura Colony near Bandipur Tiger Reserve (BTR) in Chamarajanagar district.

The women of this tribal settlement are using lantana to manufacture furniture and other decorative items to sell to tourists who visit Bandipur. It's a win-win situation as it helps in clearing the forests of the toxic invasive species, which in turn keeps a check on forest fires, and also provides a source of income to the tribals.

It has brought about a change in the lives of many tribals, including Asha, a Soliga woman from Kaniyanapura. Asha earlier used to spend the entire day doing domestic chores and looking after her child. But now, she and her 64-year-old father-in-law Kalaiah, whose right leg has been amputated due to an ailment, keep themselves busy making furniture with lantana. "My husband Vishwanath works as a forest guard at Bandipur. As he earns a meager salary, running the household was difficult. But now we are trained to make furniture from lantana and hope to earn decent money to lead a better life," she says with some hope.

Kalaiah, preparing a bird cage using lantana under a tree, adds to his daughter-in-law's story. "I used to work as a tractor driver as a daily wager in a nearby farm. But I lost my job after my leg was amputated," he says.

Like Asha, close to 300 women from the Mangala Gram Panchayat – which is adjacent to BTR and 25km from Gundlupet town, received training in making handicrafts and furniture with lantana. The Chamarajanagar Zilla Panchayat, under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan (PMVD) scheme, provided financial aid to train the tribes. The 40-day training from resource persons from NGO Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) from Male Mahadeshwara Hills ended in December 2022 at the PMVD unit set up at Kaniyanapura Colony. Among the trained women, 30 are seriously involved in manufacturing furniture and other items from January 2023.

Another resident Padma says that each day, two tractors-full of lantana from the forests are supplied to the unit in Kaniyanapura Colony. "We boil the lantana sticks in a boiler and later peel the skin and use it to prepare various crafts. It takes a week to prepare a table and two to three days for small items. We have prepared a few items based on the designs they taught us during training," she says. She is proud that Union Minister of Forests, Environment and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav, who was in Bandipur recently to attend a conference and launch 'Bandipur Yuva Mitra', sat on a lantana chair manufactured at the unit. They also manufacture baskets, tables, bookstands, key holders, bird nests, trays, fruit baskets etc.

NRLM district manager BD Govindharaja says a tribal woman among the group is appointed as a Vana Saki, who monitors the activities at the unit. "The zilla panchayat gives an honorarium to Vana Saki for the service. The rates for the furniture and crafts are fixed based on the prices mentioned in the lantanasalecraft.com. Once a stall at the safari centre opens, there will be a good market for the products," he says.

Bandipur Tiger Reserve Director P Ramesh Kumar says they are providing a dedicated stall to market lantana products at the Bandipur Safari Complex near Melukamanahalli which will open in a few days. As the safari complex sees good footfall, it will help market these products, he adds. "We are planning to market and supply lantana crafts to all the resorts based on demand and also through other marketing agencies at Mysuru and Bengaluru," he adds.

Bandipur ACF MN Naveen says that a similar programme at Maddur Colony of Maddur Range and Melukamanahalli Colony in GS Betta range, which has significant tribal population, will be launched soon.

Encouraging stories

The Kodagu Vidyalaya Opportunity School holds pride in turning a child into a source of inspiration. Fourteen-year-old Kalpanath joined the school in 1996. His abilities were identified by special educators, who trained him accordingly. He went on to represent India in the Special Olympics in Alaska, winning a medal for the country. Today, Kalpanath works as a special instructor in vocational training at a centre for people with special needs. The institution promotes kids to take part in Special Olympics and a total of six students have won medals at state and national-level tournaments so far. Several students have passed the 10th grade exams too, and are placed in various private companies in areas ranging from computers, electronics to jewellery design. A first-of-its-kind in the district, the Kodagu Vidyalaya Opportunity School has given hope, confidence and new meaning to the lives of many specially-abled children. "The institution has many other visions, which can be achieved through support from donors," concludes Gurudath CS, a trustee. The management now aims at establishing a corpus fund to ensure a self-sustainable model, which will help create more programmes for better integration of the special children.

Product sale

In 2020, for the first time, the institution organised a sale of the products made on campus. It now plans to host this annually to raise funds and promote the talents of special kids.

The institution caters to the needs of all specially-abled kids including students with autism, cerebral palsy, hearing and speech impairments. We create awareness on the need for an early intervention to address the needs of these children

- Geetha Shridhar, Principal, Kodagu Vidyalaya Opportunity School

Apart from education, students also get training in various activities like tailoring

Finding the 'Special' in Children

A school in Kodagu is knitting stories of success and seeding hope in the lives of specially-abled kids

PRAJNA GR @ Madikeri

SMILING faces welcome one into the quaint ambience enveloping Kodagu Vidyalaya Opportunity School in Madikeri. Discipline, empathy, simplicity and serenity engulf one's senses during a visit to the school – the first institution established in Kodagu to address the needs of specially-abled kids.

Kodagu Vidyalaya was set up by late Biddanda S Kushalappa. As the institution grew, Kushalappa's son, late Biddanda Subiah (a spiritual leader), envisioned a school to address the needs of specially-abled children. Thus, Kodagu Vidyalaya Opportunity School was founded in 1996 by BK Subiah, Meena Cariappa, and other like-minded visionaries.

Since inception, the institution has extended free, quality education to thousands of specially-abled children from across the district. "We strive for early intervention in addressing the needs of specially-abled kids in the district. The students are mostly from families with weak economic backgrounds," explains Geetha Shridhar, the principal.

The school started its journey towards extending free education with help from benefactors and donors. Today, it receives a minimum grant from the state, alongside continued support from trustees and donors. The institution currently nurtures 61 students with special needs, who are provided an opportunity to join the mainstream. While inclusive society is still a far-fetched dream, the students here are taught to face the competitive world with finesse, confidence and creativity. Under the guidance of founders Meena Cariappa and Veena Chengappa, and Geetha Shridhar, a team of 10 special educators, including specialists trained in handling intellectual disabilities, prepare the special children to face the world.

The institution – which saw complete renovation in 2021, thanks to donations from Govind Bhat and Meenakshi Bhat Memorial Trust – currently carries an aesthetic ambience. Apart from special education by professionals, the students here grow in a tranquil atmosphere with ample space for sports activities. Hundreds from here have participated in Special Olympics and other national and international sporting events, and have also won medals.

"The institution caters to the needs of all specially-abled kids, including students with autism, cerebral palsy, hearing and speech impairments. We create awareness on the need for early intervention to address the needs of these children," Geetha adds. Unique study plans are structured by the special educators for each individual and assistive technology is used to communicate with children with special needs. The campus also hosts a computer lab, functional kitchen, physiotherapy and sensory room, an audiology unit with audiometry chamber and vocational training centres.

A child's ability is recognised by the special educators and suitable vocational training is extended. The institution has various training sections, including a stationery unit – where children learn to make notepads and other items; a catering unit – where kids learn to bake; a tailoring unit – where the students stitch cloth bags and other utilities; a phenyl manufacturing unit and a gardening section. The products made here are marketed at the school premises and at an outlet near GT Circle in Madikeri.

Meanwhile, the kids are also taught to respect nature, even as they are skilled in scientific waste management.

BBMP forest cell set to complete 2L sapling plantation drive before budget

MOHAMMED YACOOB @BENGALURU

THE BBMP, which has undertaken the drive to plant two lakh tree saplings across Bengaluru for the year 2022-23, has realised about 70 per cent of its target, and is all set to complete it before the budget.

However, the contractors engaged in the process will be able to get their amount only when they present the plant survival record.

As per Sarina Sikkaligar, Deputy Conservator of Forest, BBMP, the Palike was unable to take up even a single tree sapling project in 2021-22 due to some contractors moving court with regard to the tender process. However, the Palike ensured that all decks would be cleared and accordingly began the tree sapling plantation drive.

"As we could not take up the one-lakh tree sapling plantation drive earlier, we doubled the target to two lakh, and have so far reached 70 per cent of the target in all eight zones. The plant size is 10x16 feet in height, and plants like Mahogany, Bird Cherry, Jamoon, Honge, Tabubia, and other native species have been planted, and we hope to cover the remaining target at the earliest," the DCF said.

As we could not take up the one lakh tree sapling plantation drive earlier, we doubled the target to two lakh, and have so far reached 70 per cent of the target in all eight zones

Sarina Sikkaligar, DCF, BBMP

The official further added that unlike in the past, the bills will be settled only when the contractors engaged in the task show the plants' survival.

"The period to settle the bills is three years and the contractors can raise the bill years, based on the inspection from our Range Forest Officers and Assistant Conservator of Forest and a comprehensive report by the department, and the bills will be settled," Sarina added .

The idea of the new rule is to show the plants' survival and only then the bill can be claimed. This has been added to eradicate any maladministration in the department and ensure that the High Court directive is not violated.

Under the streamlined forest cell of BBMP, the contractor will have to upload a photo of the tree plantation, and its location. The plantation site will also be geo-tagged. The contractors will also have to show the records of maintenance of the trees like regular water and tree guard for plant safety.

BBMP starts desilting of drains in 27 Assembly segments

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

THE Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has launched a drive to desilt storm water drains (SWD) in all 27 Assembly segments which fall under its jurisdiction. Basavaraj Kabade, chief engineer, (SWD), BBMP, said the drive is undertaken by the civic agency once every months.

"Since one contractor for the entire city was not able to deliver, BBMP made a provision to have one contractor for each Assembly constituency. The contract is awarded for a period of three years and the BBMP authorities will inspect the progress of work once in three months," Kabade said.

He further added that to avoid any fund leakage and maladministration, the Palike will assess the progress of silt clearance work km-wise and then settle the bills accordingly.

Malathi, Executive Engineer, SWD, BBMP, said that till the onset of pre-monsoon showers, the BBMP will continue the silt clearing work. "The silt from the drains are being sent to designated quarry pits," she said.

SALUTING THE SUN

SPYSS yoga enthusiasts perform 108 mass Surya Namaskara as part of 'Ratha Saptami', a festival dedicated to Lord Surya (Sun), at Salini Grounds in Bengaluru on Saturday | EXPRESS

Education most important aspect of country, says Union minister

Bengaluru: The most important aspect of a country is its education system, said Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Union Minister of State for Education on Saturday. He was speaking at the first Sri Sri Awards for Education-2023 ceremony which was hosted by the Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Vidya Mandir Trust on Saturday. "Since ancient times we have recognised that education leads to humanity, competence, prosperity and happiness. The most important aspect that can impact a country's future is its education system," he said. Meanwhile, School Education and Literacy Minister BC Nagesh also lauded the trust, stating that Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar has excelled in establishing schools in rural and tribal areas that the government has not reached as yet. "All over India we are trying to introduce the New Education Policy. The purpose of education as Swami Vivekananda said is to develop our Indian culture. Gurudev has guided all of us in the same way as Swami Vivekananda to develop education, even in tribal areas. Gurudev is running schools in tribal areas which the government has still not reached," he said. The awards were given to honour teachers and schools at the national level for their work in the education sector. Dr Geeta Laxman from Sindhi School, Hebbal, won the Best Teacher award from the south zone. Meanwhile, Delhi Public School, Bengaluru North, won a special mention as the Overall Excellence in Education award. **ENS**

A 35-year-old man lost his life while four others sustained multiple injuries after they were hit by an overspeeding BMTC bus on the Yelahanka Nagawara Road on Friday night. Two cars and three two-wheelers were also damaged in the accident involving a chain of vehicles. The bus is said to have dragged the two-wheeler of the victim to the other side of the road. The bus driver has been arrested by the police

With not many takers for shot, state unlikely to procure nasal vax

Health Department will watch the vaccine's effectiveness, then take a call, says official

AKNISREE KARTHIK
@ Bengaluru

WHILE India launched the world's first intranasal vaccine iNCOVACC on Republic Day, the State Government is not keen to procure it anytime soon.

Sources from the Karnataka Health Department told *TNSE* that this is because there is not much demand for the existing intramuscular vaccines. "The Health Department will watch the vaccine's effectiveness and then take a call on administering freely," said an official.

"Karnataka's booster dose coverage is 22% as against the expectation of 50% by end of January. We have been conducting vaccine melas to improve the coverage. But people are not showing the interest that they had earlier for the simple reason that the positive cases have significantly declined. To avoid any more wastage of vaccines, we will henceforth place orders only after 80% of the stock is exhausted," the official added.

A member of the state's Covid-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) said that for now, Karnataka is administering Covaxin, Covishield and the heterologous Corbevax. Sputnik V is being administered by a few select private hospitals, which is also losing its demand drastically.

"For now, there is no demand for any vaccines. iNCOVACC which got emergency authorisation is said to be effective in the trials that happen in a controlled setting. We will watch how it is doing in the real-world setting. If there is enough demand, then we will take it up for discussion and it has to be approved by clinicians in the state," a TAC member said.

He added that unlike the three intramuscular administered vaccines, iNCOVACC should be administered directly into the nose and this will throw up practical difficulties like the receiver sneezing while taking the dose. There is also limited training data available for medical staffers on administering the vaccine, sources said.

GOING GREEN

Students from Jain School of Interior Design take part in a cyclothon with the theme 'Cycling Secures the Future: A Sustainable Growth', in Bengaluru on Saturday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Malleswaram bomb blast accused assaulted by co-accused inside jail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A Malleswaram blast accused and undertrial prisoner (UTP) Syed Ali (35) from Tamil Nadu was reportedly assaulted by five co-accused in the case inside the Bangalore Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara after Ali decided to plead guilty before the court.

According to prison authorities, Ali complained to them that he was threatened and assaulted by five co-accused, including the key accused in the blast case - Kichan Buhari and his associates - Zulfikar Ali, Ahmed Bava, Bilal Ahmed Kyuta and Shihabuddin on December 16 after they learnt that Ali through his lawyer had moved an application before the court to plead guilty under Section 229 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) in the case. The prison authorities filed a case of assault against the five UTPs at the Parappana Agrahara police station on January 25, said prison officials.

On April 17, 2013 at least 16 people, including 11 policemen, were injured in the bomb blast near the Karnataka BJP office in Malleswaram ahead of the Assembly election that year. The bomb was strapped to a motorcycle parked between a van and a car. More than 20 persons from Tamil Nadu owing allegiance to the banned terrorist organisation Al Ummah are accused in the Malleswaram blast case and are facing trial.

4.3L DOSES OF COVID VACCINES IN K'TAKA TO EXPIRE SOON

NAMRATA SINDWANI @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka Health Department has revealed that 4.3 lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccines stocked in government and private hospitals in Karnataka will expire by February end, of which one lakh doses will expire by January 31.

A report released by the department says that 1.1 lakh of Covaxin and 3.2 lakh of Covishield are set to expire within two weeks. In Bengaluru, there are 16,000 doses of Covaxin and 26,080 Covishield available, which if not used, will also expire. Dr Prasanna HM, president, Private Hospital and Nursing Home Association, said that one lakh doses of vaccines stored in private hospitals and which cost Rs 4 crore, will expire by February end.

After a long-pending request, the Central government had released eight lakh doses of Covishield vaccine on January 15 to the state, which are already on the verge of expiring in a few days, said a health department official.

Dr Rajini, deputy director (immunisation), told *TNSE*, "We are completely relying on the Vaccine Melas to clear the stock. The next mela will be organised on January 31," she said. In the Vaccine Mela organised on January 21, 2.2 lakh vaccine doses were administered in Karnataka.

Prasanna said in private hospitals the demand for booster doses has been negligible for the last few months, especially since the government decided to provide free booster doses.

Dr Ravindra R, medical director, Suguna Hospital, added that the demand was so low that the vaccine doses were getting wasted.

Parents protest against 2nd Orchids school for fake CBSE affiliation

DONNA EVA @ Bengaluru

IN another case of alleged fake affiliation, over a hundred parents protested against another branch of Orchids The International School on Saturday. With the School Education and Literacy Department integrating state-level examinations for Class 5 and 8 students, Orchids School, Panathur, had informed parents stating that their children would be writing the exams in the state syllabus. But protesting parents said this came as a shock as the school was allegedly promoting itself as a CBSE school.

"It has been running for around five years and has never once told us that it is a state-syllabus school. All the material and syllabus taught is CBSE. All the advertising by the school management is also for the CBSE syllabus. They are also charging fees at that level. We're worried because the whole academic year has been spent teaching the students the CBSE syllabus. But next month, our children will have to learn and write the state-syllabus examination," said Ramanji Disha, one of the parents. The school management approached the parents, apologising for the misunderstanding and stating that the issue stemmed from miscommunication.

While the education department is yet to investigate the matter, Deputy Director of Public Instruction Bylanjanappa said the issue is not uncommon. "With the department mostly concentrating on government schools, private schools tend to take advantage and promote different syllabi than what they are given permission for. At least 50 to 60 such schools have been issued notices for misleading parents," he said. The school management said they had communicated with the parents.

3 sandalwood smugglers held for robbing areca dealer's staffers

ENS @ Bengaluru

THREE sandalwood smugglers wanted in several cases by the Andhra Pradesh police have been arrested in connection with the kidnap and robbery of the staff of an arecanut dealer that was reported in Wilson Garden police station limits.

The arrested are identified as Bhathal Shivaram Krishna Yadav alias Gully Rowdy, Sheikh Chempathi Lal Basha alias Sabuna, 36, and his brother Sheikh Chempathi Zakir alias Sabuna, 27. The accused in the guise of police had robbed the victims of Rs 80 lakh in cash. The incident had happened in December, last year. Two of the accused, who are siblings, were in judicial custody in AP and the city police took their custody through the court's permission. The police have managed to recover Rs 37 lakh of the Rs 80 lakh. The accused have confessed of spending the remaining money on betting. The police are on the lookout for another accused. The arecanut dealer has been identified as Mohan Kumar. Posing as policemen, the accused had robbed Kumar's driver Chandan and staffer Kumaraswamy when they were going to hand over the cash to Kumar's business partner in Tamil Nadu. "The victims were intercepted by a private car with a police sticker on it. The accused wearing police uniforms were also holding fibre canes," said the police.

Sri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

In Joint Collaboration of GoK and BBMP Dedication to the Public of

VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT WORKS

in Govindarajanagara Assembly Constituency

Divine presence
Sri Sri Sri Basavamurthy Madara Chennaiah Swamiji
Peetadhyaksharu,
Shivasharana Madara Chennaiah Mutt

Inauguration by: **Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai**, Hon'ble Chief Minister

Date: 29.01.2023, Sunday at 5.30 P.M. Venue: Bharath Rathna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Ground, 1st Main, Dr. Rajkumar Ward, Bengaluru

New Building of "Magadi Road Police Station"
Well equipped Rooms, Conference Room, Technical Cell, Control Room, Gym Room, 2 Prison Cells and other facilities

"Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Stadium"
Area: 8 Acres 29 Guntas
Bharath Rathna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Plaza, Athletic/Skating Track, Basket Ball, Volley Ball Courts and other facilities

"Over Bridge" of West of Chord Road
Additional Over Bridge constructed at the Junction of 72nd Cross and Basaveswarnagara Main Road.
Length of Over Bridge: 755.472 Mtrs., Width: 7.50 Mtrs with 2 Lanes

New Building of "Govt. First Grade College" Magadi Road
Area: 1 Acre 11 Guntas, Well equipped Principal and Personnel Rooms, Library, Play Ground and other facilities

Lighting of the Lamp
Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman — Hon'ble Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs
Sri M. Rajeev Chandrashekar — Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Electronics & Information Technology

Presided by
Sri V. Somanna — Hon'ble Minister for Housing & Infrastructure Development & MLA, Govindarajnagara Assembly Constituency

August Presence
Sri Govinda M. Karajol — Hon'ble Minister for Minor Irrigation
Sri R. Ashoka — Hon'ble Minister for Revenue
Sri Araga Jnanendra — Hon'ble Minister for Home
Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan — Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, IT-BT, Science & Technology, Skill Development

Chief Guests
Sri S.T. Somashekar — Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation
Sri B.A. Basavaraj — Hon'ble Minister for Urban Development
Sri K. Gopalaiah — Hon'ble Minister for Excise
Sri N. Munirathna — Hon'ble Minister for Horticulture & Planning, Programme Monitoring & Statistics
Sri N. Nagaraju (M.T.B.) — Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Small Scale Industries
Sri S.R. Vishwanath — Hon'ble Chairman, Bangalore Development Authority & MLA, Yelahanka Constituency
Sri M. Satish Reddy — Hon'ble Chief Whip of Ruling Party in Legislative Assembly & MLA, Bommanahalli Constituency
Sri B.K. Hariprasad — Hon'ble Leader of Opposition Party in Legislative Council & MLC
Dr. Y.A. Narayana Swamy — Hon'ble Chief Whip of Ruling Party, Legislative Council & MLC
Sri M. Krishnappa — Hon'ble Chairman, Okkaliga Development Corporation & MLA, Bengaluru South Constituency
Sri Tejasvi Surya — Hon'ble MP Bengaluru South
Sri P.C. Mohan — Hon'ble MP Bengaluru Central
Sri Jairam Ramesh — Hon'ble MP (Rajya Sabha)
Sri Jaggesh — Hon'ble MP (Rajya Sabha)
Sri Lehar Singh Siroya — Hon'ble MP (Rajya Sabha)
Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah — Hon'ble MP (Rajya Sabha)
Sri G.C. Chandrashekar — Hon'ble MP (Rajya Sabha)
Sri Narayana Koragappa — Hon'ble MP (Rajya Sabha)
Sri S. Suresh Kumar — Hon'ble MLA Rajajinagar Assembly Constituency
Sri Dinesh Gundu Rao — Hon'ble MLA Gandhinagar Assembly Constituency
Sri Aravinda Limbavali — Hon'ble MLA Mahadevpura Assembly Constituency
Sri Puttanna — Hon'ble MLC Teacher's Constituency (Bengaluru City)
Sri T.A. Sharavana — Hon'ble MLC
Sri K. Govindaraj — Hon'ble MLC
Sri P.R. Ramesh — Hon'ble MLC
Sri A. Devegowda — Hon'ble MLC, Graduates Constituency (Bengaluru City)
Sri Muniraju Gowda P.M. (Tulasi) — Hon'ble MLC
Sri H.S. Gopinath Reddy — Hon'ble MLC
Sri M. Nagaraju — Hon'ble MLC
Sri S. Keshava Prasad — Hon'ble MLC

Sri V. Somanna, Hon'ble Minister for Housing & Infrastructure Development interacting with the officials of the Palike

Hearty Welcome to all Hon'ble Members of Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha, Hon'ble MLAs & MLCs of the City and General Public

As is enshrined in our Constitution, to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002

Rakesh Singh, IAS
Administrator, BBMP

Tushar Giri Nath, IAS
Chief Commissioner, BBMP

Higher Education Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan has maintained that there will be no alliance with JDS in the upcoming state elections. He slammed Congress leaders for their statement that a vote for JDS is a vote for BJP and said the saffron party's motto is to return to power on its own in the state

'I WANT TO BECOME CM. WHY SHOULD I NOT?'

EXPRESS Dialogues

TEAM TNSE

STATE Congress manifesto committee chairman and former deputy chief minister Dr G Parameshwara says the political situation in Karnataka is similar to that of 2013 when Congress came to power. In an interaction with the *TNSE* team, the veteran Congress leader said the party will win 130 seats if they put their act together and select good winnable candidates. Excerpts.

How do you look at many opinion polls that indicate that it's difficult for Congress to get the majority?
Four surveys have come up so far. None of them has given more than 100 seats to either Congress or BJP. The reason is that the voters have still not decided. We have two months until the poll announcement. All parties, including Congress, are going for rallies to reach people. The voter has to decide. We will look at which part of the state we are not doing well and which sections of people are not comfortable with us. These are the factors we are looking at now.

What are Congress prospects?
We are looking at forming the government by winning around 130 seats. In 2013, there was a similar scenario in Karnataka. This time, it is much better for Congress. We need to put our act together. We are united, but still, the perception in the state, media and a section of people is that we are divided, which is not true. There will be differences within any political party. But definitely, we are not fighting among ourselves. We have to put our act together, select good, winnable candidates. Those parameters have to be looked into very seriously. If we take all these into consideration, we will reach 130. There is a scope and possibility, we can make it.

Why is it better this time than in 2013?
Comparatively both at the national and state level, the governments have given bad governance. In Karnataka, BS Yediyurappa and later Basavaraj Bommai kept saying many things, but people were not happy with them. Many programmes have been withdrawn. Delivering schemes or money is not happening. Moreover, people's perception on increasing prices of essential commodities, including fuel, is not good. It has had an impact on people. As far as social issues like communal harmony or peace are concerned, they are happening at different levels. When we go on district yatras, we get some sort of an indication that people are looking for a change.

You are heading the Congress manifesto committee, what exercise are you doing to prepare the party manifesto?
We are conscious about what we announce. Earlier, we used to prepare manifestos secretly and announce them at the right time. But now, we are adopting a different strategy and making some announcements. We do some exercises including working out financial details before making the announcements. For example, when we say Rs 2000 to the woman head of households, it's going to be Rs 800 crore per month. Our budget is Rs 2.65 lakh crore and we add 15% escalation every year. We can make adjustments by cutting down unnecessary expenditure and also utilising central grants.

What are your views on differences between DK Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah?
More than half of that is not true, knowing Siddaramaiah so well and for so long, working with him in the party and government. Yes, he is a different person. The difference between the two (Siddaramiah and DKS) is not so much that is a worrying factor for us within the party. In 2013, we had differences in selecting candidates. I was KPCC president and Siddaramaiah was Leader of Opposition. But we sorted it out. In a few constituencies, we both could not come to a decision and left it to the Central Election Committee.

There is a difference between yours and current KPCC president DK Shivakumar's style of working ...
Persons and personalities are different. As the KPCC President, I would quietly accept or quietly reject (suggestions), but Shivakumar might not do the same. Everybody's interest is the party. The party has to come to power. Either you become CM or someone else, first, the party has to come to power and ultimately everyone should work towards it and I am sure that is where they both are heading to.

Are you also a CM aspirant?
First thing is that the party has to come to power. We have to get the numbers. I might ask for the CM's post. Somebody else will also seek it. Naturally, the CLP leader and KPCC president will also ask. Decisions have to be made by the high command and at that point in time, they will decide on the candidate who can deliver on the manifesto. We are going for the Lok Sabha polls in 2024. That also will be under consideration.

So, it is not only between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar?
No, it is not like that. Why should it be? There are over a dozen people. If you ask me why I am in politics, I would say I want to become a chief minister. Why should I not? I have come this far. I have become a Deputy Chief Minister. Yes, naturally I too am interested. It all depends on many factors.

How is Congress looking at the reservation issue?
The reservation issue cannot be resolved so easily. There are already 101 communities in the SC and 52 in the ST. There are many communities which want to come to this ambit. This is a complicated issue and we are not going to meddle with it. Our manifesto will not speak much about the reservation issue. It's an issue which is not going to make us comfortable.

Will you have a relook at the conversion law?
We will see when we come to power. We will not make any announcements now. But when we come to power, we will relook into the laws made by the BJP government.

Young, first-time voters are attracted to BJP. Do you have something for them in the party manifesto?
We are going to say something about youth very seriously. We will give separate programmes for the youth and women, and we are working on it.

What about employment?
We have already said we are going to fill up all the sanctioned vacancies. Within one year, we will fill up all backlog vacancies. We have made that commitment. There are vacancies in all the departments. I run educational institutions and we don't have teachers. I have nearly 40 grant-in-aid high schools and we have over 100 vacancies. We have been struggling for three years. They are not permitting us to fill them up. We are managing with part-time teachers and that is the situation in government schools. If we fill vacancies in the government, nearly two lakh people will get employment.

Why did you join politics?
I joined politics accidentally. I was a (agriculture) scientist. I was in Australia. I was doing quite well. I had already joined as a postdoctoral fellow and came here for a holiday after four-and-a-half years. That was when my father was starting a medical college and we wanted to invite Rajiv Gandhi, then Prime Minister. At that time, we interacted and he asked me to join public life. He inspired me.

You are not assertive when it comes to the CM's post.
I have my own personality. See, everybody says that you're not very aggressive. You don't shout, scream, you don't use bad words. I have heard this kind for 35 years. But I have not changed. Yes, I'm not aggressive because my personality is not. I am decent enough for public life... I have come this far. Being that personality, I have come this far. Becoming a deputy chief minister... it's not a joke. Why do I change now when I have done so well in public life? SM Krishna, Ramakrishna Hegde and Veerendra Patil were not aggressive. People do like some decent people.

Congress used to do well in SC/ST constituencies. But it is almost like BJP has overtaken you. Do you think you can do well in those segments under Kharge's leadership?
We are planning to do well. This is an issue which we discussed. We are targeting 51 constituencies, including ST constituencies. We will look at them as special cases, because we have lost our base. We are at it.

Will AAP be a spoiler?
I would say it's kind of a test for them...

BJP is depending on the Modi wave. Do you think that will shatter Congress' plans?
No doubt he is a charismatic leader. But what would he say in Karnataka? If someone asks me to give five things that Modi has done for Karnataka, I can't find even one thing. Not one issue has been resolved. Mekedatu and Kalasa Banduri issues are still pending. In 2015, he laid the foundation for the HAL helicopter factory in Tumakuru and announced that they will launch the first helicopter in 2018. Till today, it is not done. We were hoping 6,500 people, mostly from Tumakuru, will get employment. Nothing happened. He has not done anything. He may try to create a wave. But what are you going to sell? In 2014 and 2019, he sold a dream to all of us. Yes, he is a charismatic leader. He knows how to express himself, which may work or may not work. We as Congress people will see that it will not work.

Is the party concerned about a split in minority community votes?
The basic issue for minorities is security. They want security. Who will provide security? Will the BJP provide it? Their agenda is different and every minority person knows that. Then who is next? It is JDS and Congress. Will JDS come to power on its own and give protection to minorities? The answer is no. But Congress can as we did before. We may have made some mistakes. I admit it. But we will give them protection in terms of laws, security in terms of everything and their development. We will focus on their education, whatever their small businesses, industries and we will stand by them. We do not consider them second-grade citizens. That's why they certainly trust us and be with us.

Has Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra had any impact on Karnataka?
Politically no. But personally to Rahul Gandhi, yes. It has changed how people look at him.

Entire exercise is to give value to the brand RaGa?
Not a brand. He had a mission. He wanted people to understand him all over the country. He was projected as a different person than he is by the BJP on different media platforms. So, he wanted to change that as he is not like that, but an individual who is sincerely committed to serve the nation in whatever capacity. He has done it, and people, whatever their political inclination, have realised that he is a sincere person. Ultimately it will help the party.

Which role do you like the most, the scientist, the sportsperson, the academician or that of a politician?
Each one gives a different satisfaction. Politics gives satisfaction that at the end of the day, I have done something for somebody. Poor students come for help and it's nice if you build a pucca house for a family living in a thatched hut. If you do a big project like irrigation, you feel happy. We have been able to build 85 educational institutions. We have started a new medical college at Nelamangala. I feel okay as I am doing something for the nation. My father (HM Gangadharaiah) started an engineering college in 1979. Thirty thousand graduates from there and another six thousand doctors from Siddhartha Medical College in Tumakuru pass out. As a sportsperson, I set a record at the university level in 100 metre sprint. That was a different satisfaction. As a scientist, I discovered a chemical for the first time which gave wonderful satisfaction as I felt I had done something great, and my professor gave me a pat on the back. I published nine papers in international journals for my PhD and got selected for post-doctoral positions in France, Canada, California in the US, and Melbourne in Australia all at the same time.

What are your views on I-T raids on Congress leaders, including you?
There are agencies where you can control the income tax system. The raids need not be targeted at a person. Our organisation is 65 years old. We did not get even a single notice all those years. All of a sudden, 200 people came and raided the establishment. What do you say about that? It happened, just because I was a DCM and looking after the government. They could have issued a notice and there is a provision to fine if found evading the tax. I think somewhere these agencies are being misused. Why are only people from Congress and opposition parties targeted?

You are hopeful of coming to power. How about 2024 LS polls?
We will improve our position. We will cross 100 seats. Yes, we will see if AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge stands a chance to become the PM. Given the way he is being projected, there is a possibility.

BJP solved Mahadayi row, says Shah, congratulates CM

NAUSHAD BIJAPUR @ Belagavi

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah has said the BJP government at the Centre has been able to resolve the long-drawn tussle between Karnataka and Goa to finally supply Mahadayi river waters to Karnataka.

He was addressing the party's Jana Sankalpa Yatra at MK Hubli, 25km from Belagavi on Saturday evening. Shah congratulated Karnataka leaders and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai for diverting Mahadayi waters to Karnataka and helping the farmers here. "My huge congratulations to the leaders and CM of Karnataka for providing Mahadayi waters to dry areas of Karnataka. CM Bommai has done a great job," he added.

Shah reminded the gathering about former AICC president Sonia Gandhi's statement in Goa in 2007 that the Congress would not allow the diversion of Mahadayi waters to Karnataka and the announcement made in the Congress manifesto during the 2022 elections in Goa that her party would ensure that Karnataka would not get even a drop of Mahadayi waters. "Today, I have come to tell you that the BJP resolved a long-drawn dispute between the two states and gave Mahadayi waters to Karnataka," he added.

Shah's remark comes a day after the Supreme Court decided to fix an early date for hearing the Goa government's plea to cancel the approval given to the revised Detailed Project Report (DPR) to Karnataka to implement the Kalasa-Banduri project.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah paints the Bharatiya Janata Party symbol in Kundgol, Dharward district, on Saturday | D HEMANTH

'A VOTE FOR JDS IS A VOTE FOR CONGRESS'

While thanking Bommai for putting up the portrait of Veer Savarkar in Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi, Shah said, the Jana Sankalpa Yatra which he launched in MK Hubli would mark the start of BJP's election campaign in the state. He said the people of Karnataka had two choices to make in the assembly elections which are expected to be held in April-May.

"On the one side, you (voters) have two dynastic political parties — Congress and JDS and on the other the BJP headed by PM Narendra Modi, who has steered the nation to the top in the world. Every vote given to JDS will go to the Congress. By winning 25 to 30 seats with the help of the Congress, the JDS would do nothing but form a government and impose a dynastic rule on Karnataka. The Congress worked like the ATM of its Delhi bosses when it had formed the government. The Congress will dump the state neck-deep in corruption if it comes to power again," he added.

On the new railway project, Shah said his government would ensure implementation of Dharwad-Kittur-Belagavi rail line at an estimated cost of Rs 1,000 crore and establish a township on 1,000 acres in Kittur soon.

"It is possible to provide jobs to 50,000 people in Kittur's township," he said.

Taking the credit for abrogation of Article 370, Shah said that the Congress and JDS had earlier stated that there would be a bloodbath in Kashmir if Article 370 was removed. "I would like to tell Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Siddaramaiah that no one even dared to throw a pebble in Jammu and Kashmir (after the abrogation of Article 370)," he added.

GOA OPPN SLAMS SAWANT

The statement of Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulating Karnataka for getting Mahadayi waters to Karnataka has angered the Opposition parties in Goa. The Congress and Goa Forward have slammed the Goa CM Dr Pramod Sawant and said the Goa government was part of the decision to allow the diversion of Mahadayi to Karnataka. Goa Forward President Vijai Sardesai has demanded Sawant's resignation if he cannot resolve the issue in Goa's favour. Goa Pradesh Congress Committee President Amit Patkar also slammed Sawant.

On the one side, you (voters) have two dynastic political parties — Congress and JDS and on the other the BJP headed by PM Narendra Modi, who has steered the nation to the top in the world

Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

'Centre planning to make forensic evidence must for all offences'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"IN the days to come, visits by FSL experts to the scene of crime will be made mandatory across the country. A few initiatives like recording fingerprints and other details of criminals have already been taken", Shah added.

Earlier, in Hubballi, Shah said the Union government is contemplating making forensic evidence mandatory for all offences attracting punishment of more than six years. He said this move would require at least 50,000 trained human resources and also provide employment opportunities to the youth. To meet this demand, the seventh campus of the National Forensic Science University is being set up at Dharwad in the north Karnataka region, he added.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said that a decade ago cybercrime was unheard of but now there is a legislation for it. Technology must be far more upgraded than what the criminals use, he said.

Bommai said that in the past it took several years to get the FSL report which gave enough time for criminals to escape. He said when he was the home minister of the state, two regional FSLs were sanctioned, besides upgrading the FSL in Bengaluru at a cost of Rs 30 crore. Bommai added that the services of the new varsity in Karnataka will be available to all states.

BJP just distributing food prepared by Cong: Siddaramaiah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Yadgir

BJP is distributing the food prepared by the Congress when it was in power, said former chief minister Siddaramaiah, who is also Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, here on Saturday.

Addressing the concluding programme of the first leg of Praja Dhwani Yatra at Yadgir, Siddaramaiah said that a few days back, Prime Minister Narednra Modi who was in Kalaburagi and Yadgir districts, inaugurated schemes and projects which were initiated by the Congress when it was in power.

"When the Congress was in power in the year 2013, we took all the steps to upgrade Lambani Thandas into revenue villages on the basis of the recommendations of the Narasimhaiah Committee Report. At that time Kagodu Timmappa was the revenue minister and we brought an amendment to the Land Reforms Act by making the dweller the owner. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has served the food prepared by the previous Congress government," he said.

Similarly, the previous Congress government commenced the work of installing Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Gate to Narayanpur Left Bank Canal at Yadgir district and spent Rs 3,500 crore by starting the work in 2014 and completing it in 2017. But it was inaugurated by Modi, the Badami MLA said.

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D K Shivakumar speaks at the Praja Dhwani Yatra in Yadgir on Saturday

Stating that the first phase of Praja Dhwani had received tremendous response, Siddaramaiah said people have already decided to throw out the BJP and to elect the Congress in the upcoming assembly elections.

'Pro-people administration'

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president DK Shivakumar, who also spoke on the occasion, poohpoohed the statement of the Prime Minister for alleging that Congress had not done anything for the people.

"It is the Congress which brought amendment to Article 371 J when it was in power. AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge and former chief minister late Dharm Singh put all their efforts to bring amendment to Article 371 J. Due to this, many students have passed BE and MBBS courses and have become engineers and doctors. Thousands of youth have got jobs because of the Amendment to Article 371 J," he said.

IT Minister and TRS working president KT Rama Rao on Saturday said that if the BJP national leadership was ready for early Lok Sabha elections, Telangana too would be ready to face early Assembly elections

Kerala's fin health precarious, FY23 debt-GSDP ratio at 39.1%

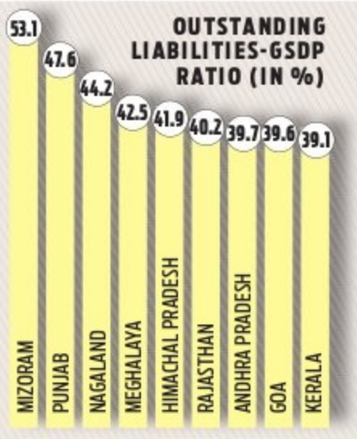
'Climate change & fast aging population pose severe threat to state's economic growth'

M S VIDYANANDAN @T'Puram

INDICATING that the financial health of the state is precarious, Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) annual report on state finances for FY23 points out that Kerala's debt-GSDP ratio stands at 39.1%, up from 28.9% in FY16. According to critics, the debt-GSDP ratio is a pointer to the financial health and default risk of the states, and ballooning liabilities is likely to put the debt servicing ability of Kerala under further stress with growth in revenue seen as sluggish due to various factors.

According to RBI report, Kerala's total outstanding liabilities are projected at Rs 3,90,859.5 crore in the 2022-23 budget as compared to Rs 1,62,271.5 crore in FY16. Outstanding liabilities increased significantly in FY21, which was basically a lockdown period, to Rs 3,10,856.2 crore from Rs2,67,585.4 crore in the previous fiscal and the debt-GSDP ratio rose from 32.5% to 38.9% respectively. Kerala had spent more on welfare packages like supplying free food kits to every household during the lockdown period.

The state has the ninth highest debt-GSDP ratio in the country in the current fiscal with Mizoram topping the list in the key indicator with a ratio of 53.1% Punjab (47.6%), Himachal Pradesh (41.9%) and Rajasthan (40.2%) are some of the states that are ahead in the list.



Source-RBI annual report on state finances for 2022-23

Economist Dr Jose Sebastian says Kerala's position is more precarious than most other states with higher ratios. "Risks of climate change and fast aging population pose a severe threat to Kerala's economic growth in future. We have a higher vulnerability to natural calamities that would have a direct bearing on different sectors contributing to the GSDP, especially agriculture. Also, GSDP growth will go down with the rise in the elderly- dependency ratio," he said.

The RBI report showed that the lowest debt-GSDP ratio in the past two decades was in FY12 at 26% and it hovered between 28% until 2014- 15. C.P. John, who was a member of the State Planning Board during the period, attributed it to the focus on tax collection, general ease of doing feeling in different sectors, and the resultant higher growth rate in GSDP.

According to him, most other states having higher debt-GSDP ratios, cannot be compared with Kerala. "They have smaller economies that do not have robust industrial or service sectors due to their geographical disadvantages," he said. Three states that had similar or bigger economies were Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, and Rajasthan. However, debunking the allegations that the state is in a debt trap, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan recently said that Kerala's growth indicators are better than the national average.

WHITE PAPER SHOWS STATE'S BORROWINGS AT ₹4 LAKH CRORE

T'Puram: Ahead of the budget on February 3, the UDF has came out with a white paper claiming that the state is in dire financial straits. 'Kattapura-the Sarkaar', loosely translated as 'Non-Working Government', says the government borrowings have touched a whopping ₹4 lakh crore. After releasing the white paper to IUML senior legislator PK Kunhalikutty, Leader of Opposition VD Satheesan questioned how the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (Kiifb) can implement announced projects worth ₹70,000 crore with just ₹ 3,419 crore in its kitty. The report was prepared by UDF's subcommittee on finance planning, under the aegis of chairman CP John. Satheesan warned that the state is passing through a dangerous financial phase where public debt is 39.1% more than the gross state domestic product (GSDP). With tax collection down from ₹71,000 crore to ₹58,000 crore, Kerala is feeling the heat as GST revenue has come to a standstill. Unleashing his tirade against the LDF government, Satheesan alleged that the financial mess was due to corruption, mismanagement and extravagance.

LIGHT OF FAITH

An illuminated Lord Sri Suryanarayana Swamy temple during the Radhasaptami celebrations | EXPRESS

Carrying capacity study to prevent another Joshimath

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

TO avoid any Joshimath-like calamity in other tourist destination, the tourism ministry will undertake carrying capacity study of all tourist destinations, especially those on hilly terrains and the Western Ghats.

Based on the carrying capacity report, tourism products and permissions will be accorded. A senior official from the ministry told TNIE that tourists now demand for sustainable tourist destinations and hotels. "It is time to shift from mass tourism to selective and niche tourism. A sustainable tourism task force is also being formed to avoid over-exploitation of locations and what has happened in Joshimath does not happen elsewhere," the official said.

The official added that emphasis is now being laid on providing livelihood to locals, protecting environment and ensuring that there is little or no impact when tourism is permitted in an area, the official added.

The ministry is also working on a sustainable tourism model under the national tourism digital document. An ecorating will also be introduced for all hotels, resorts and homestays. "A robust digital document is being created in a portal which will be ready in a month. All tourists and stakeholders will be encouraged to refer to it, which will also benefit suppliers and consumers. All tourism-related details will be available on a single portal. Hotels, resorts and homestays will be recognised for their sustainable models, and will be rated by the ministry," the official added.

Pilot's mortal remains to be brought today

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE pilot was commissioned as a flying officer in the IAF in 2009. He was residing at Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh with his wife and children, while his parents stay in Belagavi. Though the family hails from Maknur village in Haveri, they settled in Belagavi after the wing commander's father Revanasidappa retired as honorary captain in the Indian Army.

The officers of Airmen Training Centre, Belagavi, and Army personnel from MLIRC, Belagavi, visited the residence of the officer at Sena Colony in Ganeshpur, Belagavi and met the family members. Dr Jagadish K, his brother-in-law, said, "The parents are shocked. It is hard to digest that Hanumanth is no more. We've been told that his mortal remains will be brought to Belagavi by a special IAF plane on Sunday. The funeral will be held in Benakanahalli near Ganeshpur in Belagavi with full military honours'". Nitesh Patil, DC, Belagavi, said he is in touch with IAF officials.

Pregnant woman beaten to death by hubby in TN

ENS @ Vellore

A pregnant woman from Chidambaram was beaten to death allegedly by her husband, and her body dumped in Palamathi Hills. Bagayam police recovered the body on Friday.

Police said the deceased Gunapriya (22) and Karthi (22) were married for the last eight months. Karthi, who is an AC mechanic and son of a sub-inspector, has been arrested and a case has been registered.

Gunapriya was seven-month pregnant, who was beaten to death allegedly by Karthi after a dispute over visiting the hills.Karthi's statement read, "I became furious. I found a stick and hit her on the head. She died instantly."

CPM, CONGRESS IN A SPOT

Hindenburg report gives more ammo to anti-Vizhinjam agitators

KS SREEJITH @T'Puram

FOLLOWING the Hindenburg report on the Adani Group, the Opposition Congress in Kerala and the ruling CPM are in a precarious situation as the anti-Vizhinjam port construction agitators are gearing up with questions about Adani's credibility.

State leadership of both parties are tight-lipped about the report, but those who had opposed the construction are pointing out that they had also raised the same questions while the construction agreement was being granted to the Adani Group.

They demanded that there should be a relook into how the agreement was achieved.

Joseph C Mathew, one of the complainants who had moved court against the port construction, told TNIE that the way the then UDF government introduced the mortgage provision in the agreement with the group raised suspicion after other bidders retreated.

"CAG has said that in the absence of competitive bids, the government should have floated the tender again. The Hindenburg report had pointed out huge debts of the company," he said. Another person, AJ Vijayan told TNIE after the report, the future of Adani Group is under question.

"If this is the beginning of his fall, the future of Vizhinjam project and Kerala will also be bleak. The agitators were forced to withdraw their protest, and they have pointed out that the way in which the Oommen Chandy government had awarded the construction agreement to the Adani Group and the LDF government's silence after it came to power raise questions," he said.

Congress has demanded an investigation into the report by RBI and SEBI. However, the party leaders, who had come out in support of the agitators, have not spoken on the report, while the CPM leadership is yet to respond as the party central committee is holding a meeting in Kolkata.

It will be interesting to see if the state CPM leaders, who have always castigated the nexus between corporates and government, would speak against the Adani Group.

The CPM, which was in the opposition when the agreement was granted by the then UDF government, had alleged that the government was handing over worth Rs 6,000 crore to Adani Group. A judicial commission was formed to investigate into the allegations, which gave a clean chit to Chandy.

Woman with cocaine worth ₹6cr held at KIA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

The Customs officials at KIA last week arrested a 40-year-old woman from Sierra Leone under the NDPS Act after they recovered 58 capsules of cocaine weighing 686 grams worth over Rs 6.86 crore which she was carrying in her stomach.

According to sources, the woman had reportedly sourced the contraband from an African country and had transited through Dubai by the Emirates airline. She landed at KIA on January 14, when based on credible inputs from the Directorate of Intelligence (DRI), Bengaluru, the Customs officials intercepted her. "She complained of stomach discomfort and was taken to the hospital. She was made to relieve all the 58 capsules covered with latex. She was arrested on January 19 under NDPS Act and remanded in judicial custody," said sources.

DAY OF JUSTICE

Woman gets 10-year jail in Pocso case

Bengaluru: A 45-year-old woman was sentenced to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and asked to pay a fine in connection with a Pocso case by a city court. The woman is accused number 2 in the case, which was filed by the Wilson Garden police on January 15, 2013. The victim, 15, was confined in the woman, Saraswathi's house in Sudhama Nagar. She had assisted the prime accused in repeatedly raping the minor and forcing her to marry. The main accused, Sanjay, has already been sentenced to 10 years imprisonment on January 30, 2019. "Sanjay had raped the minor girl from January 7, 2013 to January 14, 2013 at Saraswathi's house. Both the accused had forced the victim to marry Sanjay. The victim was coming to the hospital to see her grandmother and became close to Saraswathi," a press release read. Saraswathi took the victim to her home under the pretext of dropping her home and confined her.

Man gets life sentence for killing his wife

Bengaluru: A 33-year-old man was sentenced to life imprisonment by a city court on Friday and a fine of Rs 1,000 for killing his wife over phone addiction in 2018. The couple from Odisha were staying in Kamakshipalya area. The accused, Kailash Chand after murdering his wife, Malathi Sahu, 25, escaped after locking the house. After a putrid smell began emanating, neighbours alerted the police, and he was arrested in hours in Yeshwanthapura railway station when he had boarded a train to Odisha. Chand used to work in a factory. The couple's two-and-a-half-year-old daughter was in Odisha at the time of the murder on June 19, 2018. Chand was upset over his wife's phone addiction and also suspected an extra marital affair. He had also saved money for his father which his wife used up without his permission. "When she did not respond after being questioned over the money, he assaulted and later smothered her to death with a pillow. He covered the body in a bed spread and fled," said an officer.

EXPRESS READ

Sharath Kumar calls on Kavitha

HYDERABAD : All India Samathuva Makkal Katchi founder president and actor Sharath Kumar met MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha at her residence on Saturday. They both had a lengthy discussion on the latest political situation in the country as well as in Tamil Nadu. The leaders discussed the Bharat Rashtra Samiti which is trying to spread its wings in other states. Sources stated that Sharath Kumar is likely to meet CM and BRS president K Chandrasekhar Rao in the coming days. They are expected to discuss his party's alliance with BRS in TN.

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) TRIBUNAL, CHAMBER NO.15, GROUND FLOOR, BLOCK 'A', DELHI HIGH COURT, NEW DELHI – 110 503

Reg: 20/UAP Tribunal-2023 Dated: 28.01.2023

RE: Notification bearing No. S.O.4559 (E) dated 27th September, 2022, published in the Official Gazette on 28th September, 2022 declaring the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its associates or affiliates or fronts including Rehab India Foundation (RIF), Campus Front of India (CFI), All India Imams Council (AIIC), National Confederation of Human Rights Organization (NCHRO), National Women's Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala (for short PFI and its associates or affiliates or fronts') as "unlawful association" in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and(3) of Section-3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention), 1967 read with Notification No. S.O.4758 (E) dated 06th October, 2022.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the general public that the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal presided over by Hon'ble Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma, Delhi High Court seated on 28.01.2023 at Balabrooie Guest House, Palace Road, Bangalore and seating of tribunal will be continue at **Court Hall No. 2A, High Court of Karnataka, Bangalore on dated 29.01.2023 and 30.01.2023 10.00 am onwards.**

All those, who are interested in giving evidence may file their affidavit (in duplicate) with the undersigned and shall present in person on the above dates for their cross examination, if any, before the Hon'ble Tribunal.

Sd/-
(Reetesh Singh)
Registrar
Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal
Delhi High Court Building
Sher Shah Road, New Delhi

DIPR/CP/Adwit/4368/2022-23

சர்தார் வல்லபாய் படேல் சர்வதேச ஜவுளி மற்றும் மேலாண்மை கல்லூரி
SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL International School of Textiles & Management
Autonomous Institute, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India
1483, Avinashi Road, Peelamedu, COIMBATORE – 641004
Ph : 0422 – 2571675, 2592205

No.:SVPISTM/Civil/2023-24/3 DT. 27.01.2023

TENDER NOTICE

for Galvanized Iron (GI) shed with civil work at SVPISTM.

For further details visit **www.svpitm.ac.in**
Last date for submission: 15 .02.2023 before 2.00 p.m

Director.

Office of the Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Special division, Shimoga
Ph: 08182-222942, E-Mail : spdivision@gmail.com

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

IFT NO: 74/ 2022-23 Date : 25-01-2023

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Shimoga Special Division, invites tenders as per K.T.P.P act 2000, in standard Bid document K/W-3 (two cover system) Contractors has registered in PWD Department Class-3 & above can apply under head of account **8443-Deposite Contribution in Shivamogga Taluk 01 work & in Thirthahalli Taluk 01 work, under head of account 4059-80-051-0-29-386 Departmental Buildings, in Thirthahalli Taluk 01 work and 4216-01-700-2-01-386 Residential Buildings, in Thirthahalli Taluk 01 work and in Maximum Amount put to Tender is Rs. 84.71 lakhs & Minimum Amount put to Tender is Rs. 54.92 Lakhs and Maximum EMD amount is Rs. 1.70 Lakhs & Minimum EMD Amount is Rs. 1.10 Lakhs. Time allowed for completion of work is as mentioned in E-Procurement it includes Monsoon.** The tenderers may submit tenders through E-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz., http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in). The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Section -2 (Instructions to tenderers) of document, to qualify for award of the contract. Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal from **25-01-2023 to 09-02-2023.** Last date for Receipt of Tender is on **09-02-2023 at 17.00 PM.** The Technical bid will be opened on **10-02-2023 at 05.30 PM** onwards and Financial bid will be opened after **13-02-2023** Onwards. If there any changes it is published through E-Procurement only. For more information may be obtained from the office during working hours. Information published in Website is final.

DIPR/SMG/No.194-01 zenkar/2022-23

Sd/-Executive Engineer, PWD Special Division, Shimoga.

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAMA LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA ENTERPRISE)
Registered Office: #148, Embassy Square, Infantry Road, Bengaluru. Website: techvjnl@gmail.com

Office of the Executive Engineer, VJNL,UBP, Division No.01, Kadur-577548
Chikkamagaluru Dist. Pone/Fax No:08267-295207 email ID: eeubpdvn1@gmail.com

No:EE/VJNL/UBP/D-01/K/Tender-10/KTF-Corri/2022-23/1249 Dated:21-01-2023

CORRIGENDUM NOTIFICATION-4 (TWO SEPERATE E-TENDER)

(Only through E- PROCUREMENT SYSTEM)

The Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP, Division No.01 Kadur as per KW-4, invited **TURNKEY BASIS** tender **(TWO SEPARATE E-TENDER)** through **e-procurement** vide ref on behalf of the Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Ltd, Bangalore for the **INDENT NO: VJNL/2022-23/LI/WORK_INDENT2383**. Now due to technical reasons the last date of submission of completed tender documents & date of opening of technical bid are postponed and refixed as mentioned below.

Sl.No.	First in eprocurement	Now to be read as
1	The last date for submission of completed tender documents through e-portal	06-02-2023 up to 16.30 PM
2	Date & time of opening of technical bid (cover-1) by Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP, Division No-01, Kadur	07-02-2023 @ 17.00 PM
3	Financial Bid will be opened after the approval of technical bid	

Note: All other terms and conditions of tender mentioned in the reference shall remain unchanged except the calendar of events.

Sd/- Executive Engineer

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
CHENNAI DIVISION - MECHANICAL BRANCH
GEM Bid No: GEM/2023/B/2981236 Dated: 12-01-2023
Corrigendum No. 01 dt. 24.01.2023

Work: EMS certification - ISO 14001:2015 for 14 Stations of Chennai Division i.e. Jolarpettai, Arakkonam, Katpadi, Perambur, Avadi, Perungalthur, Velachery, Guindy, Pazhvanthangal, Tiruvallur, Guduvancheri, Tiruttani, Singaperumal Koil, Chennai Beach Railway Stations for a period of three years.
Corrigendum: 01

Sl. No	Name of Railway Station	No. of total staff working (Including contract staff)	Footfall per day in No.
1	Jolarpetai	120	6563
2	Arakkonam	487	40972
3	Katpadi	1700	13804
4	Perambur	100	26926
5	Avadi	109	41473
6	Perungalthur	10	12158
7	Velachery	75	27513
8	Guindy	35	31369
9	Pazhvanthangal	14	19572
10	Tiruvallur	500	48182
11	Guduvancheri	15	15538
12	Tirutani	223	14036
13	Singaperumal Koil	25	6730
14	Chennai Beach	20	95171

Tender closing date and time: 02.02.2023 at 18.00 hrs.
Tender opening date and time: 02.02.2023 at 18.30 hrs.
Details of value of tender, tender condition are given in e-portal **www.gem.gov.in** for details please refer to web portal **www.gem.gov.in**

Divisional Railway Manager/Mechanical Branch, Chennai-3
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"You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them." — Ray Bradbury

#BUDGET2023: WHAT IS INDIA'S WELFARE EXPENDITURE?

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of The Gated Republic, Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution, and Accidental India
shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com

ON Friday, a petitioner urged the Supreme Court to declare that citizens have a fundamental right to directly petition Parliament to deliberate and debate on important issues of public interest. A bench of Justices K M Joseph and B V Nagarathna sought a response from the Central government and listed the PIL for hearing after two weeks.

The idea is not without precedent. Citizens in the United Kingdom can petition parliament – 10,000 signatures get a response from the government and after one lakh signatures, the petition is considered for a debate in Parliament. The right to petition Parliament is a question that will draw attention as it underlines public perception that debates in Parliament do not address issues haunting people.

A good place to start would be public expenditure. For instance, what is the sum-total of all the money that is spent on welfare by the Centre and the states? More importantly what is the level or quality of outcomes achieved with the use of tax payer monies? Arriving at the number of schemes by itself is a challenge. For sure, websites of Union and state governments list out schemes, covering an array of insufficiencies and deprivations.

For instance, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment lists schemes for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other backward classes, for manual scavengers, for those with disabilities and so on. The Ministry of Rural Development lists a host of schemes under acronyms such as MGNREGS, PMAY, NSAP, SAGY, DAY-NRLM, DDUGKY, et al. The pensioners' portal lists 28 schemes for senior citizens.

Add to this list schemes administered by the states on their own or with the Union government. A good way to triangulate the number of schemes administered by Centre and states is to look at Direct Benefit Transfers on the DBT Bharat portal. Now this portal classifies schemes by department. As per DBT Bharat, 53 departments of government of India administer 310 schemes using the Aadhaar-based DBT system.

The DBT system operates through the National Payments Corporation of India, a not-for-profit platform managing DBT and payments via the National Automated Clearing House. Data reveals the stunning volume of schemes and transactions. As per NPCI data, there are 8,976 user codes for schemes using DBT -- some of which are under same or similar names. The classification of entries – all India and states – suggests that 587 of these codes are for payments administered by the Union government and the rest by state governments.

It is possible that not all user codes pertain to schemes. Equally it is instructive to remember not all schemes use the direct benefit transfer route. Many of the government subventions or subsidies are payments made directly to the accounts of beneficiaries. So, how many schemes do the various governments manage? Aniket Doegar, a social impact entrepreneur who runs Haqdarshak, a tech platform enabling last-mile linkage to prospective beneficiaries, says the exact number is hard to establish and could be around 20,000.

So what is the total expenditure – Union plus states – on these schemes? The Budget documents for 2022-23 reveal that the Union government had allocated Rs 4.42 lakh crore for 50 listed Centrally-sponsored schemes. What is the total expenditure of state governments on social and individual subventions and subsidies? The answer is in the black box of government data.

The debate is not about the need for welfare. That the middle class feels left out of the gravy train is a separate political question for parties to address. The need for intervention is reflected in the data – in the 800 million covered by the free ration scheme, by the coverage of 500 million for healthcare under Ayushman Bharat and by over 151 million persons on the rolls of MGNREGS. The question is what is the quantum being expended and whether the allocations deliver the intended outcomes.

Questions galore! Should there be so many schemes? Can the schemes be harmonized? The issue of who must deliver what has surfaced in the reports of the Sarkaria Commission and in the report of the Punchhi Commission which had a task force on Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Governance. More recently, in December 2021, Bibek Debroy who heads the PM's Economic Advisory Council averred that spending needs to be aligned with responsibilities listed in the seventh schedule of the Constitution and mooted the creation of a body like the GST Council for expenditure reforms.

This week Parliament will convene for the Budget Session. The Union Budget is essentially a financial statement laced with political intent. This being the final full budget of the Modi government as India heads for polls in 2024, the focus is on how the government designs spending for transfer of electoral dividends. That is important but what is more critical is a holistic assessment of the quantum and the quality of spending on welfare. Would it be too much to expect a national outcomes statement every Budget on taxpayer monies spent by Union and state governments?

A nation which is the fifth largest economy and the largest democracy must surely do better in assessing whether it is achieving what it intended to achieve.

THE REPUBLIC AND THE PARADE OF RRRs

OPINION

SANTWANA BHATTACHARYA
Editor

IN the otherwise bleak and scattered field of vision that surrounds us, it's films that are bringing some cheer and a measure of focus. Else, neither the economy nor the world seems to have any particular order as 2023 foglights its way through its first month. Conflict still hangs like a dark cloud, and the real climate may displace even that for sheer drama—if the year dawned with the news of Joshimath sinking, El Nino might disrupt our monsoon with bizarre rain-drought patterns and put extra frostbite into a gas-deficient European winter thereafter. Campuses are again spiralling into crisis and chaos. Covid-19 may have receded, but that verb's nominalised form—recession—stares at the world. But none of that is stopping us from going all Naatu Naatu with NTR Jr and Ram Charan.

Never mind where your tastes lie, the theme surpasses the actual song. Director S S Rajamouli put his finger on it, sounding a bit miffed as he shared with Hollywood Reporter his disappointment at RRR not being the official Indian entry to the Oscars. Yes, it was sidelined by the Film Federation of India, which chose to send a little-known Gujarati film called Chello Show (ominously, The Last Film Show)—"colonised" that we are, nothing seems to stop us from chasing the prestige of an Academy Award! Fulfilment may yet await RRR after a rare Oscar nomination—everyone's waiting for the final award show on March 13.

Meanwhile, we are not sitting idle. In new India, it's not just that films save us from drudgery. We have to save films from boycott calls. And then they inevitably bring about the opposite effect as Indians show their true besharam rang (shameless colours) by queueing up at the box office and logging on to ticket-booking apps. It's all Jhoome Jo Pathaan everywhere—no Oscar awaits it, but isn't public approbation a better reward? The occasional video of vandalism notwithstanding, shows are running from 6 in the morning to beyond midnight. Never before has Taran Adarsh's trade talk on how quickly a Bollywood blockbuster has made its hundreds of crores created so much interest among the chattering classes. There's palpable relief on one front—Bollywood is not dead yet! The masala is back, and so is the mojo! Even Kangana Ranaut's usual black tongue got a coating of honey and sugar.

Like our political ones, our filmi blockbusters don't pretend to be high art. And like our politics, it can defy logic with pretty much the same elements—gravity-defying stunts, strutting six packs, high-octane action, blood-brawn-'n-gore, and song and dance about nothing. Whether the sepia tones of history or the noir shades of espionage, everything is spiced up, dragged out of context, cast in juvenile tones, and fictionalised beyond recognition. Those who claim films are a reflection of society must frequently be scratching their heads. Where exactly to draw parallels?

Well, if you step back to see the meta-patterns, there is indeed an umbilical tie between the two. The uber-success of a Telugu film like RRR—along with those of its monster-sized predecessors and the OTT success of other 'South cinema'—is a quiet cultural reflection of a surge of regional political identity. As Rajamouli has been at pains to point out in the US, Bollywood is not 'Indian cinema' or its sole representative. The more we are boxed into a top-down narrative of 'One Nation, One Aadhaar, One Tax' and other assorted singularities, regional and sub-regional identities reassert themselves as a counter-narrative. The more we rewrite history in fictionalised monochromes, newer cultural artefacts appear that restore the rainbow and bring the sargam back to its seven-noted wholeness.

One reason why Bollywood is happy to create a splash for a change is because it has lost territory. Its status is curiously akin to that of a Partition refugee, given expression in Sahir's re-

> The current hysteria around *Pathaan* notwithstanding, the question is: "Will there be a next one?" Will Bollywood endure beyond the ageing Khans? Can any future Hindi filmstar command such a pan-India hold that people come out in every province to fight a stifling boycott culture?

vealing lines for Raj Kapoor, "Rahne ko ghar nahin hai / saara jahaan hamara" (I've no home, the whole world is mine). Or, as a Sindhi friend in Kolkata once said, "We're the only people in the country without a state." It's a gap money cannot fill.

The current hysteria around Pathaan notwithstanding, the question is: "Will there be a next one?" Will Bollywood endure beyond the ageing Khans? Can any future Hindi filmstar command such a pan-India hold that people come out in every province to fight a stifling boycott culture? When a Hindu identity—that is, a religious identity—usurps the national identity, can superstar fan clubs remain above community and provincial allegiances? Can there be a Mammooty for all of India? Looking into the future of Indian politics, we might as well ask the same question.

Youth in distant Tripura may be bursting crackers for Pathaan's success, but come February 16, they will be plunged into another fight—one to save regional identity and tribal rights. The BJP, defending champion in an unusual context, will be trying, as usual, to unify the Hindu vote. CPI(M) veteran Manik Sarkar, once one of India's longest-serving CMs, is bowing out of electoral politics. The Congress is allied with the Left. No national narrative disturbs the local dynamics. Nagaland and Meghalaya, voting for February 27, too, are fraught with regional assertions and bitter territorial fights.

In the next big election—Karnataka—the most pronounced contest is again one of identity: between the regional and the religious. This is despite two national parties being pitted against each other. Similarly, in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chattisgarh, which vote later in 2023, national themes will be tossed around merely for effect—it's localisms that will be the determining element.

Make no mistake, by the time the 2024 parliamentary elections are upon us, nationalism will once more be invoked strongly, mostly through outsourced narratives of military valour. But micro-management of caste and generalised innuendo about creed is what the ground will witness. And yes, very strong regional powerhouses are the alternative, in the east and south in particular. The Bahubalis of cinema have political counterparts. The Indian identity, if there's any, is anyway locked up in the passport and scattered across biometric devices. No one notices this dispersal of identity because middle-class India—which is, at the end of the day, the influencer—finds its 'national' appetites regularly sated via the scoldings foreign minister S Jaishankar doles out to world powers. But in politics, as in cinema, always read between the lines.

WHY '71 BANGLA GENOCIDE NOT RECOGNISED BY UN

OPINION

TARANA HALIM
Actress, lawyer, former Bangladesh minister and central executive member of the Awami League

AS a child of liberation who was just five when my countrymen won freedom from an oppressive Pakistan military junta over an 'ocean of blood', I feel strongly about why the UN has so far not recognised the 1971 East Pakistan genocide as one.

I consider this to be the biggest failure of the global body 75 years after the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide came into force.

On December 9, 1948, the international community formally adopted a definition of genocide within the 1948 convention – essentially enshrining the message of "never again" in international law.

Experts have questioned whether the convention has achieved its objectives and pointed out the key reasons for its failure.

- First, the term "genocide" is applied too slowly and cautiously when atrocities happen.
- Second, the international community fails to act effectively against genocides.
- Third, too few perpetrators are convicted of their crimes.

Rachel Burns points to the many genocides that have occurred since the 1948 convention and its ratification in 1951, and only three of which have been legally recognised – and led to trials – under the convention: Rwanda in 1994, Bosnia (and the 1995 Srebrenica massacre), and Cambodia under the 1975-79 Pol Pot regime.

Many, like the Indonesian genocide (1965-66) or the Guatemalan genocide (1960-96) or the genocides committed under Saddam Hussein against the Kurds in 1988-91 in Iraq, fall in the category of unrecognised genocides. But topping that list is the 1971 East Pakistan genocide.

As a passionate and patriotic Bangladeshi, I would like to argue that the UN should immediately recognise the 1971 East Pakistan genocide against Bengalis without any further delay for three reasons:

- The number of people killed in East Pakistan by Pakistani forces (regular army and collaborator paramilitaries) in eight months, from March to December 1971, far exceeds the number who died in the three UN-recognised genocides.

In these eight months, the Pakistani forces massacred nearly three million Bengalis of all faiths and tribesmen. In comparison, 1.5 to 2 million deaths occurred at the hands of the murderous Khmer Rouge, but these deaths were over four years. Hutus massacred between 500000 to 650000 Tutsis during the Rwanda civil war in 1994. And the Balkan genocide casualty toll never crossed six digits.

- The genocide in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) was not just limited to random killings but involved both targetted killings (of intellectuals to leave behind a brain deficit) and also largescale rapes (nearly 300,000) and molestations of Bengali women as well as arson.
- The regular army of Pakistan carried out this genocide-- not the militias- which the US and NATO have since designated as a "useful ally in the war against terror".

Recognising the 1971 East Pakistan genocide (because it happened before Bangladesh was officially born) by the UN is not merely important for the global body to regain its credibility and effectiveness but also to expose a military institution which is seen as of much strategic value in the West.

> The least the Western powers, especially the US, can do is to recognise the 1971 East Pakistan genocide officially. India has already backed Bangladesh's present government to push for UN recognition of the 1971 East Pakistan genocide.

India's former army chief Gen Shankar Roychoudhury once said, "a brutalised army is no good as a fighting machine" when he developed his human rights charter for the Indian army.

The West has been befooled, somewhat willfully, into believing Pakistan's army is useful in fighting terror in Afghanistan. There is enough evidence now to suggest the Pakistani generals were always hunting with the hound and swimming with the crocodile. They were allowing the US and NATO a springboard for anti-Taliban operations but allowing the Taliban safe shelter, training and weapons in Pakistan, without which the Taliban would have never survived, let alone emerge victorious to take over the country.

The least the Western powers, especially the US (which spends much effort chasing human rights violations in Bangladesh now), can do is to recognise the 1971 East Pakistan genocide officially. India has already backed Bangladesh's present government to push for UN recognition of the 1971 East Pakistan genocide. India's influence as president of the Security Council and chairman of G-20 will surely help, but the West must push the case. It often dominates and drives the narrative and the debates within the UN system. The least they could do is stop fooling their citizens and taxpayers by sustaining their militaries about the dual role of the Pakistani army in the war against terror.

By recognising the 1971 genocide in East Pakistan, they can expose the evil institution called the Pakistan army, which denied Bengalis our right to life and which now denies its citizens basic democratic rights. It is the biggest force of destabilisation in South Asia. The UN recognition of the 1971 East Pakistan genocide and the 2017 Rohingya genocide will help call out and expose two evil military institutions that threaten democracy and the dignity of life in our part of the world. It is high time the West stops chasing phantoms and does its bit to punish mass murderers in our region. Or else we would be under no obligation to take the human rights sermons of the West seriously.

(taranah66@gmail.com)

QUOTE CORNER

My journey started in Melbourne...in 2005, when I played Serene Williams as an 18-year-old. I had the privilege to come back...win some tournaments and play finals. I couldn't think of a better arena to finish my career at, in a Grand Slam

Sania Mirza, Indian tennis player

Forward, persistent presence is key to regional security and stability in the Indo-Pacific. Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz (on US Pacific island of Guam) is a critical part of that

Gen David Berger, Commandant of the US Marine Corps

I sent a wish list card to Santa Claus last year, and fighter jets also [were] included in this wish list

Oleksii Reznikov, Ukrainian Defence Minister

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Caste politics

Politics in India has always been caste-based. As the paper rightly points out, political parties are in a race to see who emerges as a benefactor of the backward castes in the next general election (Caste is centre stage as parties gear up for the battle of 2024). The mindset of Indians has not matured to consider the ideology of the parties and the merit of the candidates above caste considerations.

Dr M Haneef, Kottayam

Adieu Sania!

Apropos 'Major impact: Sania makes grand exit'. A glorious tennis career that started at the age of 18 at the Rod Laver Arena in 2005, also ended there. What a sad state of our talent pool that there is not a single young woman tennis player in India who can take her legacy forward.

Bal Govind, Noida

Airline fined

The Aviation regulator DGCA on Friday imposed a fine of ₹10 lakh on Go First for leaving behind 55 flyers on January 9 at Bengaluru airport when the Delhi-bound flight took off with their luggage. On January 10, Go First apologised for the inconvenience caused to passengers due to "inadvertent oversight." Those who lost the flight are angry and irreconcilable.

MS Rao, Bengaluru

Freedom of expression

Ref. Conditioning content in a democracy (January 28). The BBC documentary series 'India: the Modi question' has stirred the hornet's nest, both in terms of timing of the documentary on an incident that happened in 2002, and the intention. While silencing difference of opinion doesn't augur well for a democracy, the state also has the responsibility to put the lid on contentious 'opinion' or content that has the potential to disrupt peace and amity, especially in a country like India where communities belonging to different faiths coexist.

Dr George Jacob, Kochi

Common candidate

The Erode East by-poll is getting murkier. While the AIADMK leaders -- EPS & OPS -- are putting up their own candidates, now the AMMA too has announced its candidate to force a three-way split in the AIADMK votes. What a shame for the party and its departed leaders – MGR and Jayalalithaa -- who were envy of opposition parties. Unless the warring factions unite, they will soon be digging their own graves.

Captain N Viswanathan, Coimbatore

Bribery scandal

Apropos editorial 'After bribery scandal, judicial clean-up must' (January 28). The editorial emphasised the need for public trust and confidence to be restored in the judiciary, in the aftermath of advocate Saiby Jose Kidangoor collecting huge sums of money from his clients to influence judges to get a favourable judgment. This incident cannot be brushed aside.

KV Raghuram, Wayanad

Security breach

It is unfortunate that security issues are being politicised in India. The J&K region is very sensitive. It is alright for political parties to arrange yatras but when there are questions of security breaches, there should be some understanding between security forces and the parties concerned.

Jitendranath Guru, Padampur.

Alcohol ban

Your article 'Bad Spirits' (January 28) is timely and should be an eye opener for one and all, especially state governments. Even a drop of alcohol is not good for health, as pointed out by Lancet. But no government is ready to put a total ban on sale of alcohol. That's because governments earn crores of rupees in revenue.

N Mahadevan, Chennai

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Sharad Pawar @PawarSpeaks
If one wants to watch a film, it is part of his personal freedom. Because people don't like that film, it is not right to block its release

Omar Abdullah @OmarAbdullah
Talking heads are silent & channels don't really want to talk about it. #BharatJodoYatra has got a very good response from Kashmiris

Hardeep Singh Puri @HardeepSPuri
At the re-coronation of Sagar Samrat Rig built in 1973. A positive step in India's steady journey towards energy self-sufficiency by 2047

Plea for citizens' role in Parliament

SC agrees to consider plea that seeks to empower citizens to petition the Parliament

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court has agreed to consider a plea which seeks an appropriate system for citizens to petition Parliament and initiate deliberations on highlighted matters.

A bench of Justices K M Joseph and B V Nagarathna on Saturday asked the counsel to serve a copy of the plea which also seeks reasonable rules and regulations with regards to the same.

The petition, filed by Karan Garg, argues that it is imperative for the Centre to take steps that empower citizens to get their voice heard in Parliament without any difficulty.

"Ordinary citizens of the country, the petitioner felt, "disempowered" when it came to participation in the democratic process, and after people cast their votes and elect representatives, there is no scope for any further participation," the plea stated.

Garg in his plea also contended that granting citizens the ability to engage with Parliament and Centre at a deeper level would reduce the burden on the Supreme Court and high courts as there would be an alternative remedy for espousing public interest causes.

"Citizens have a fundamental right to participate in democratic affairs and are constitutionally entitled to present workable and constructive suggestions to Parliament on matters of national importance so that public interest is appropriately safeguarded. The current system does not fully allow citizens to initiate discussions in Parliament by moving appropriate petitions," it said.

A system by which the citizens can directly petition Parliament is already in place in the United Kingdom and it has been working well for several years, the plea pointed out.

The petitioner said that if citizens have the ability to engage with the Centre and Parliament at a deeper level, it may reduce the burden on the top court and state high courts "since there may exist an effective and alternative remedy for espousing and pursuing public interest causes".

The petitioner said citizens have fundamental right to participate in democratic affairs and are constitutionally entitled to present constructive suggestions to Parliament on matters of national importance so that public interest is appropriately safeguarded.

Apex court raps Allahabad HC for dismissing 50 bail pleas in a single day

The Supreme Court recently rapped Allahabad HC for dismissing about 50 bail applications without considering the merits in a single day. "In the first instance, we disapprove such practice adopted by the High Court in passing orders for dismissal of bail application in default. At the same time, it was not fair on part of the appellant also not to put appearance on the date when the matter was listed. He too was at liberty to make an application for recalling of the order dated 27.09.2022 which is assailed before this Court," a bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and Bela Trivedi remarked. The court disapproved the act while considering a plea preferred by an accused who was aggrieved by HCs this move.

SHAH RUKH KHAN

THE KINTSUGI OF THE KING

NAMRATA JOSHI

IF there's an element in Pathaan that is as pivotal as Shah Rukh Khan himself, it's the allusion to "kintsugi", the Japanese art form of repairing broken pottery with molten gold, which supposedly makes it even more precious than it originally was. Metaphorically, it's about flaunting the beauty of your scars than keeping them hidden. When SRK invokes it on screen, it's impossible to overlook the personal association it carries with respect to the embattled Bollywood, and of course, the target of intense hate that he has himself been in the last few years.

The success of SRK's full-fledged return—not considering the Brahmastra cameo—to the big screen four years after Anand L Rai's Zero in 2018, is not just in the crores that it has amassed at the box office (Rs 219.6 crore gross worldwide in two-day run as per the producers, Yash Raj Films) or the innumerable records that it has shattered. It's in the razor-sharp line (dialogue by Abbas Tyrewalat hat is wonderfully in sync with SRK's own sensibility) that emphatically asserts: "Pathaan zinda hai". Bollywood and SRK are alive despite innumerable blows. In fact, they are more resilient and stronger.

Pathaan marks the dawn of a new role for SRK where the reel melds with the real. Borrowing a dialogue from the film itself, just when you thought that the chapter was over, he has written a whole new book. The actor, superstar, entertainer, glib talker, charmer, money-spinner, businessman and global soft power turns into an unequivocal hate repellant, armed with his unique brand of love and characteristic humour.

When Pakistani ISI spy Rubina Mohsin (Deepika Padukone) asks Pathaan if he is a Muslim, he says he doesn't know, that he is an orphan who was left in a cinema hall by his parents, a place that has never been about any religion other than success—commercial or artistic.

SOURAV ROY

The Hindi film industry has been one of the most secular cultural institutions in India. Yet it has been split wide open and polarised in the last few years. The backlash against the industry since the death by suicide case of actor Sushant Singh Rajput in 2020 has also meant allegations of sleaze and immorality. Pathaan's filmi origin story then is SRK's call for sanity, harking back to the inclusive spirit at a time when Bollywood has been at the receiving bans and boycotts by reactionaries. Pathaan itself was in the eye of the storm over its song "Besharam Rang" featuring a saffron-coloured bikini. Things came to such a pass that Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Bhartiya Janta Party's recent National Executive meeting had to reproach the party leaders and workers for making "unnecessary comments" on "irrelevant issues" like movies. SRK, his family, films and business have been targeted. His son Aryan Khan, arrested on charges of possessing drugs, had to spend time in jail though he was later found not guilty.

NEWSMAKER

Against these odds, SRK makes a statement with a Patriot Act that might be in tune with the narratives currently in vogue but replaces the jingoism with humanism. The song "Jhoome jo Pathaan" is an ode to SRK's own unique brand of "ishq" which involves protecting the supposed opponent at the cost of your own life. SRK might be a bare-chested macho man but one who needs painkillers for the aches and pains of middle age, who turns a woman, his boss Dimple Kapadia, into the biggest hero of the masculine world.

In the days to come, much will be scrutinised about SRK, the film and its politics. Not just its obvious lack of logic and predictability, it has already started facing the ire of the conservatives and liberals alike, from their two opposing standpoints, on the issue of its portrayal of Article 370, Pakistan, Hindustan, Kashmir, ISI, R&AW. While both expect the film to be a fierce ideological manifesto of their own kind, SRK prefers to be the subtle subverter calling for mending and healing, friendship, and love and yet brings out a lot of uncomfortable truths if you care to read between the lines or understand meta.

In his first tweet after the declaration of mammoth success, SRK quoted Gattaca movie: "I never saved anything for the swim back". He then goes on to offer the wisdom of a 57-year-old: "I think life is a bit like that. You aren't meant to plan your return. You are meant to move forward. Don't come back. Try to finish what you started."

Pathaan marks a huge leap forward in an onward journey that started with Fauji in 1988. In these 35 years it never mattered whether you liked, disliked or were indifferent to him. SRK was and is a huge icon. Period. The resounding success of Pathaan in the aftermath of his personal traumas—and of the industry in general—has made him even bigger than he was. You can continue to like, dislike or be indifferent to him. It won't matter. Amid all the aspirants and pretenders, and the many fake ones propped up, championed and endorsed, he is yet again the one and only resounding answer to the question: "Bollywood ka King kaun?"

Comment on collegium model a response to SC remark: Rijiju

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

DAYS after his comments questioning the colegium system of appointing judges spared a row, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju in an interview on Saturday said his comment was in response to the SC remark that the Centre is sitting on the files on judges' appointment.

"All the statements that I have made are in reaction. It's important for me to react to the comments that are made for functioning of the democracy. Recently SC remarked that the Centre is sitting on the files, we are not sitting over the files, but are in the process. Thus, neither the court nor we should make such statements that send a wrong signal to the public," the law minister said.

He was speaking at *Aap Ki Aadalt* television show aired by India TV News.

On his recent comment on the judiciary, he said, "The things that I should say, and if I say them in the right manner, then they should not be considered as an attack. We all respect the judiciary."

Rijiju had said judges don't face election, but people are watching their judgments.

"The Laxman Rekha that has been drawn by the Constitution should not be crossed and this will be in country's interest," he said regarding the separation of judiciary and other branches of the government.

He also said that it is wrong to say that the government wants to control the judiciary. He said the government can never control the judiciary and should not even think about doing so.

"I am playing the role that I've been assigned. Law minister acts as a bridge between the centre and the judiciary. I will never say anything that's unconstitutional"

He also expressed concerns over SC collegium's move to put out sensitive intelligence reports in public domain. "There are some matters which should not be disclosed in national interest, and there are matters which should not be concealed in public interest," he said.

Speaking about the BBC docuseries on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Rijiju said, "SC adjudicated the entire issue of Godhra riots and delivered its verdict then if BBC makes some documentary and leaders from communist party, leftist say that BBCs report is correct & they don't adhere to SCs verdict, then it's my duty as law minister to say that SCs verdict is supreme & BBC is nothing ."

MAHILA MORCHA

Award in memory of Sushma Swaraj constituted

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE BJP's Mahila Morcha has announced a national award in the name of late BJP leader and former external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj from this year, on Saturday. The 'Sushma Swaraj Award' will be given to the distinguished women achievers from various fields of services.

The move by Mahila Morcha aims to immortalize the contributions of Sushma Swaraj to the nation.

Speaking to this newspaper, Vanathi Srinivasan, national president of Mahila Morcha said, "In March every year, the Mahila Morcha is planning to give away this award to distinguished women achievers from different categories in the name of (late) Sushma Swaraj."

She also said that the state unit of Mahila Morcha, in consultation with its national unit will decide the number of awardees and the selection process. "To ensure transparency, a committee will be formed with bureaucrats and experts. The award ceremony will be promoted on print, TV, and social media and televised on YouTube and news channels", she further said.

Besides this, Srinivasan said that the Morcha has initiated a slew of nationwide activities focussing on empowering women including, a year-long selfie campaign with 1 crore beneficiaries of central government's various schemes, millet food festival – nationwide outreach to the tribal women to be held in April, Smart Women Leaders' Sammelan in June, whereas a first time voter's mega interaction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November in addition to the Kamal Doot maharally with the PM in December this year.

'Pandemic saw sale of condoms & pills shoot up, while sterilisations declined'

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

MALE AND FEMALE sterilisations dropped sharply, but the sale of condoms and contraceptive pills went up during Covid restrictions and lockdown, according to the latest Union Health Ministry data.

Sterilisations fell by 25 per cent in 2021-22 compared to the year before that, while condom distribution rose by seven percent, and the Chhaya (contraceptive) pills usage doubled, according to the report of the Health Management Information System (HMIS).

"Despite the pandemic, condom distribution witnessed an increase of 7.2 per cent as compared to 2020-21," said the report, which is a comprehensive source for facility-level health data nationwide.

Uttar Pradesh, followed by Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal, was the leading state in the distribution of condoms, followed by Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Karnataka and Jharkhand.

In terms of sheer numbers, these are 33.70 crore units of condoms sold in 2021-22 compared to 31.45 crore in 2020-21. Despite the hike, the numbers still fell short of the highest mark of 34.44 crore touched in 2018-19 before the lockdown.

Centchroman, popularly known as Chhaya pills, emerged as a contraceptive method of choice during the Covid-19 pandemic in almost all states.

Also, the Combined Oral Contraceptive (COC) Pills saw an increase of 8.7 percent as compared to 2020-21.

A whopping 76.5 lakh Chhaya contraception pills were distributed in 2021-22, compared to 57.1 lakh in 2020-21. The jump is significant as only 14.1 lakh pills were distributed in 2018-19 – prior to the pandemic.

Most of the demand for these pills came from Uttar Pradesh, followed by West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

However, in COC pills distribution, West Bengal led the country, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

In contrast, sterilisations declined during pandemic, falling from 33.52 lakh in 2019-20 to 26.97 lakh in 2021-22.

In 2021-22 male sterilisation (33,635) contributed to one percent of the total sterilisation services provided in India.

Although it has improved by 27 per cent from 2020-21 (26,424), it declined by 38 percent compared to 2019-20 (54,239).

In 2021-22, Maharashtra (7,414) recorded the highest number of male sterilisations, followed by Chhattisgarh (4,469), Uttar Pradesh (2,903), and Madhya Pradesh (2,897).

Female sterilisation grew from 26.71 lakhs in 2020-21 to 29.75 lakh in 2021-22. However, it is yet to reach its pre-pandemic level of 32.98 lakh procedures in 2019-20.

"Pandemic years 2020-21 and 2021-22 were challenging years for all services, including family planning," the report said.

"Over the years, the family planning programme has been repositioned to not only achieve population sterilisation goals but also reduce maternal, infant and child morbidities and mortalities," it said.

Despite the huge challenges encountered on account of the pandemic, the programme was able to stand its ground and barring a few expected setbacks, especially in the reduction of sterilisations performed.

Contraception during Covid

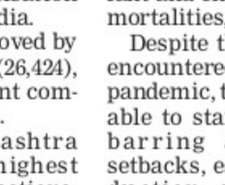
Latest Union Health Ministry data says male and female sterilisations dropped sharply, but the sale of condoms and contraceptive pills went up during Covid restrictions and lockdown

25% fall in sterilisations in 4 years

Fell **33.52 lakh** in 2019-20 to **26.97 lakh** in 2021-22

MALE STERILISATION
Although it improved by **27%** from 2020-22, services on males declined by **38%** compared to 2019-20

FEMALE STERILISATION
Procedures on females went up from **26.71 lakhs** in 2020-21 to **29.75 lakh** in 2021-22. However, it is yet to reach its pre-pandemic level of **32.98 lakhs** in 2019-20.



A whopping **76.5 lakh** Chhaya pills were distributed in 2021-22, compared to **57.1 lakh** in 2020-21

7% rise in condom distribution between 2020 and 2022

Chhaya (contraceptive) pills usage skyrocket

The jump is significant as only **14.1 lakh** pills were distributed before Covid in 2018-19

Pandemic years 2020-21 and 2021-22 were challenging years for family planning services. Over the years, the family planning programme has been repositioned to not only achieve population sterilisation goals but also reduce maternal, infant and child morbidities and mortalities

Thakur highlights soft power of Indian movies at SCO film festival

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

"INDIAN movies are a rage across SCO countries and have played a great role in people-to-people connections" said Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur at the opening of five-day 'SCO Film Festival' in Mumbai.

At the event held on Friday, the minister said that Indian movies have played a great role in nurturing people-to-people connections.

"Showcasing the diversity of films and styles of film making from SCO region is a major goal of the film festival. This festival provides an incredible opportunity to forge cinematic partnership between the countries of this region," he said.

The Guest of Honour at the opening ceremony was Hema Malini and other film personalities including Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff, Sajid Nadiadwala, Esha Gupta, Poonam Dhillon, Eli Avram, Hrishita Bhatt and Jacky Bhagnani were felicitated. Union Minister of State for culture Meenakshi Lekhi was also present.

Union I&B Minister Anurag Thakur inaugurates the SCO Film Festival along with film actors in Mumbai on Friday | EXPRESS

The SCO Film Festival screens 57 films and 14 films have been nominated in the Competition Section of the Film Festival.

The event is being held during India's Presidency of the International Cooperation Organization. It also coincides with the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration.

Now, heritage sites will give immersive experience

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

TOURISTS visiting selected heritage sites in India will get to know the history of the place through an immersive experience that will take them back in time. The culture ministry is working to finalise a technology to recreate the past and enable visitors to travel to bygone eras virtually by using a mobile application.

The ministry has chosen Nalanda, 5-6th century site in Bihar for the pilot after which a similar facility will be introduced at four prominent sites such as Rakhigarhi (Haryana), Dholavira (Gujarat) and Hampi (Karnataka).

The officials said that the project aims to bring life to our monuments.

If things fall into place, the facility will be launched at Nalanda by the end of April, said officials. Until now, a similar virtual reality experience is only available in Japan, where visitors have experienced the bombing and destruction of Hiroshima before.

"We are planning to introduce Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) technology at 4-5 centrally protected heritage sites within three months. It will first start at Nalanda, which is in ruins. We are working on a technology so that one can see, through mobile, how the site would have been during 6-7th century; how Bakhtiyar Khilji invaded and destroyed it. With the help of historical references, we will reconstruct the entire area. Chinese Hiuen Tsang has written about Nalanda. We will use that," said a senior official of the ministry, privy to the matter.

Brainstorming is underway to pick other sites to introduce the AR/VR experience, said the official.

"The whole point is to understand and recall our cultural heritage which has almost been forgotten. We always appreciate historical sites abroad but our country's cultural heritage is richer. However, we haven't marketed appropriately. The efforts are to fill that gap. How this history could be told to a common man in simplest form," said an official.

The ministry officials have already held a meeting with the private service provider, which may be roped in for the project. "Rakhigarhi is one of the best sites to do this. We don't have written accounts about Rakhigarhi or Dholavira but we may use our imagination based on our findings. Research has already begun... Later on, based on the success, this feature may be added to other sites with the help of 'monument mitra' (friends of monument)," official informed.

MOTORMAN INJURED

The motorman of a suburban train suffered a minor head injury after the metal hook at the tip of a crane's arm dashed the local's front portion at Naigaon station in Palghar district on Saturday.

02 KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENT IN PUNJAB'S PHAGWARA

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	27	13	Mumbai	29	20
Bhopal	29	15	Panaji	28	21
Jaipur	21	13	Patna	25	14
Amritsar	19	10	Lucknow	24	13
Chennai	30	24	Port Blair	30	26
Kolkata	29	17	Imphal	28	08
Srinagar	08	1	Chandigarh	19	12

EC orders probe into 'unusual' increase in U'khand voter count

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

THE Election Commission of India (EC) has ordered an inquiry into "unusual" increase in the number of voters in Uttarakhand in the last 10 years. During the Uttarakhand assembly elections in 2022, Dehradun-based think-tank Social Development for Communities (SDC) Foundation had released a detailed report, based on Election Commission data, on increase in the number of voters in the state in the last 10 years.

The foundation had compared the voting percentage with voters in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Manipur and Goa. Among these states, Uttarakhand had the highest increase in the number of voters. Based on this report, former IFS officer and Uttarakhand Raksha Morcha president Dr V K Bahuguna had written to the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister, before approaching the Chief Election Commissioner.

"This unusual increase in the number of voters has threatened the cultural integrity of the state. Uttarakhand's carrying capacity has already ended many years ago," Bahuguna said.

Committees at district, assembly and polling station levels will conduct quick investigations. Welcoming the Election Commission's order, SDC Foundation chairman Anup Nautiyal told this daily, "The seats where the number of voters have increased the most are all seats in the plains. Among the 70 seats in the state, Dharampur assembly constituency in Dehradun district recorded the highest voter registration."

NUMBERS MATTER

- Uttarakhand had the highest increase in the number of voters
- Raksha Morcha president Dr V K Bahuguna has requested for a probe
- SEC asked to complete this investigation and submit the report by February 28
- Among the 70 seats in the state, Dharampur assembly constituency in Dehradun district recorded the highest voter registration
- In the last 10 years, the number of voters in this assembly constituency has increased by 72 per cent

Union min in BJP 1st list for Tripura

11 women, 2 Muslims among 48 candidates for 60-member Assembly

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

WITHOUT showing signs of anxiety following tribal parties' tactic to join hands for Tripura polls, the BJP on Saturday released the first list of its 48 candidates for the February 16 elections. The list has names of 11 women, including Union minister Pratima Bhowmik, and two Muslim candidates. Some 15 candidates are first-timers. The party's central leadership finalised the names, sources said.

The list does not have the names of six MLAs – Arun Chandra Bhowmik (Belonia), Biplab Ghosh (Matabari), Subhash Das (Nalchar), Mimi Majumder (Badharghat) Birendra Kishore Debbarma (Golaghati) and Parimal Debbarma (Ambasa). The state has 60 seats and it remains to be seen if they are fielded from other constituencies.

Chief Minister Manik Saha, a dental surgeon, and Bhowmik, who is the Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, are two prominent candidates.

Saha will contest from the Town Bordowali seat. In May last year, the BJP had replaced the then chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb with Saha, who was serving as a Rajya Sabha member. Subsequently, he got elected to the Assembly after winning a by-election.

PROMINENT NAMES

- Manik Saha, Chief Minister
- Pratima Bhowmik, Union minister
- Jishnu Debbarma, Deputy Chief Minister
- Rajib Bhattacharjee, State BJP president
- Ratan Lal Nath – Minister of Higher Education and Law
- Sushanta Chowdhury – Minister of Information & Cultural Affairs
- Ram Pada Jamatia – Minister of Tribal Welfare
- Pranajit Singha Roy – Minister of Transport
- Santana Chakma – Minister of Social Welfare

Bhowmik, who rose through the ranks in the party, will contest from the Dhanpur seat. She had lost the last election to the then Chief Minister Manik Sarkar. The CPI-M veteran is not contesting this time.

CPI-M legislator Moboshar Ali, who joined the BJP in New Delhi on Friday, has been fielded from his pet Kailasahar seat in northern Tripura. State BJP chief Rajib Bhattacharjee will contest from Banamalipur. Former CM Deb, who is now a Rajya Sabha member, was elected from here in the 2018 polls.

Bhattacharjee said the BJP's second list of 12 candidates would be announced soon. He said the party was holding talks with ally Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT). The state is ruled by the BJP-IPFT coalition. In the past year, the two parties lost around 10 MLAs to other parties, including tribe-based TIPRA Motha which is influential in the 20 seats reserved for the tribals.

6 MORE NAMES OUT, PACT WITH IPFT 'CONTINUES'

Late Saturday, the BJP released the second list of its six candidates for Tripura elections. In Agartala, the leaders of BJP and its ally the IPFT announced that the alliance between them would continue.

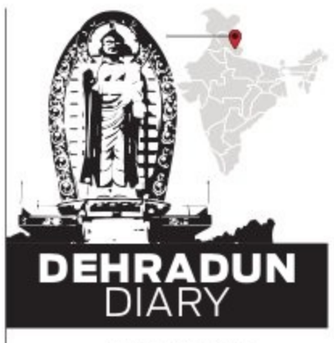
Cong bargains hard with Left, gets 17 seats

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

THE Congress is contesting 17 seats in Tripura, four more than what was allotted to it by allies – the Left parties. The party announced the names of its candidates on Saturday. The Congress and the Left parties forged a pre-poll alliance in Tripura for the first time this election. Two days ago, the Left parties announced the names of their 47 candidates – 43 of them from the CPI-M. The Congress was upset that it was allotted only 13 seats.

The party said it had initially sought to contest from 27 of the state's 60 seats and then scaled it down to 23, following opposition from Left parties. Despite the seat-sharing arrangement, the Congress and the Left will now vie against each other in four seats. The Congress said it was contesting in 17 seats "as per the wishes of the people".

The Congress' lone MLA in the state, Sudip Roy Barman, would contest from the Agartala seat. He had won the last election as a BJP candidate and was inducted into the ministry but resigned from the Assembly and the party in February.



DEHRADUN DIARY

NARENDRA SETHI
Our correspondent in Uttarakhand
narendrasethi@newindianexpress.com

State tableau shown for 13th time in 18 yrs

The tableau of Uttarakhand state was this year a part of the Republic Day parade for the 13th time in the last 18 years. It depicted the Corbett National Park and Almora's Jageshwar Dham. The tableaus have so far been presented in front of five Presidents, starting with President APJ Abdul Kalam in 2005, followed by the tenure of Pratibha Patil, Pranab Mukherjee, Ram Nath Kovind and now, Droupadi Murmu. Uttarakhand's tableau has also won awards in 2018 and 2021. All the tableaus have been showcased by Kalam Singh Chauhan, joint director, Information and Public Relations Department.

Tourists in Mussoorie to see 'winter line'

Like Switzerland, in Uttarakhand too, it's the time again for the winter line to be visible in the valleys of Mussoorie. The natural spectacle is prompting tourists to line up at the Mall Road of the hill station to enjoy the sight. Winterline refers to the dark false horizon formed in winter at certain mountainous places around the world. Tourists have been thronging Mussoorie to witness the phenomenon that is usually seen between November and February towards the Doon Valley for about 15 to 20 minutes during sunset.

Bageshwar Dham baba reaches Uttarakhand

Pandit Dhirendra Shastri of Baba Bageshwar Dham in Madhya Pradesh, who has been in the news for the last several days, has reached Uttarakhand. In a video posted on social media, he says in his three-day stay here, he has extended invitation to the saints to participate in the Yagya being organized at Bageshwar Dham. During this, he has also advised his opponents: "If you raise the flag of Sanatan, you would stay within rules, and will benefit."

Bengal: 4 die as car with marriage party falls into river

PRONAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

FOUR of a marriage party were killed and seven others, including the bride and groom, were seriously injured when the car they were travelling in plunged into a river in north Bengal's kalimpong early on Saturday. Police said the incident took place when the vehicle skidded off a bridge and fell into Rungdung river and the death toll could have been more had there been more water in the river.

The deceased, all relatives and friends of Rajesh Ekka, the groom residing in Siliguri, were identified as Tilak Mondal(34), Shukla Mondal(57), Sushanta Jaidhar(38) and Sahil Sheikh(23). While Tilak and Shukla were declared dead on arrival at a local hospital, Sushanta and Jaidhar succumbed to injuries at a private healthcare unit in Siliguri. Ekka, his wife Punam and other injured, including the driver of the vehicle, are under treatment.

Preliminary investigation by the police revealed the mishap probably took place because of dense fog in the Dooars area in north Bengal.

Sukhu eyes green state tag, decides to set up heliports in all districts

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

IN a bid to boost air connectivity and get Himachal Pradesh the status of a green state, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu aims to set up heliports in each district. All the deputy commissioners have been directed to identify land for paving the way to implement helicopter connectivity. They have also been asked to install electric vehicle charging stations in their areas of jurisdiction till February 10.

Sukhu issued the directions while chairing a video-conference with all the deputy commissioners here on Saturday, and stressed on the need to reduce carbon emissions by promoting use of electric vehicles and improving air connectivity. He said that the Airports Authority of India has appointed a consultant for the purpose.

The state government plans to set up electric charging stations at a feasible distance on national highways and other major district roads. Sukhu also directed the officials of the state electricity board for proper load augmentation for the charging stations.

Wayside amenities should be developed along with the charging stations, said, adding that this will not only facilitate commuters but also work as an added attraction for tourism.

Sukhu has also announced setting up of Rajiv Gandhi day-boarding schools having compact integrated complex in every Assembly segment to provide quality and modern education to children. Around 50 bighas of land would be required for the purpose, within a perimeter of 4-5 km from the district, tehsil. Deputy commissioners have been made nodal officers and asked to submit the report by February 10. Sukhu had earlier expressed concern over delay in granting forest clearances for construction of tourism projects, roads and e-charging stations.

ED notice to MP leader of Opposition in PMLA probe

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

GOVIND Singh, the former Madhya Pradesh minister and present leader of opposition (LoP) in the state's Assembly, has been summoned by the investigation wing of the Enforcement Directorate in the ongoing probe involving the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The notice issued by Assistant Director of Enforcement Directorate, Deepak Kumar Chunbouk, asked Singh to appear before the Central agency under Prevention of Money Laundering Act – 2002 on January 27 (Friday). But, instead of appearing before the investigation agency on Friday, the seven time Congress MLA has sent his reply to the ED, via his legal counsels, including Rajya Sabha member Vivek Tankha.

Sharing the copy of the ED notice, the LoP on Saturday, questioned why the central agency hasn't mentioned any reason in the notice for asking his personal appearance. "I've asked the agency through my legal counsel. If the ED doesn't reply to my query, I'll move the Supreme Court in the matter."

U'khand panel: All 396 ad hoc appointments to House secretariat illegal

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

ALL 396 ad hoc appointments to Uttarakhand Assembly Secretariat made from 2001 to 2021 are unconstitutional and incorrect, an expert committee has found. The Dilip Kotia-led committee has recommended cancellation of 228 such appointments. Another 168 appointments from 2001 to 2015 and their regularization have also been deemed wrong and "unconstitutional".

The inquiry followed an uproar in the political corridors of the state amid allegations and counter-allegations by Congress and BJP over these appointments The revelation came after a report became public following an appeal under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

Kashipur-based RTI activist and senior advocate Nadeem Uddin had sought information about the committee's report.

When Nadeem made the first appeal, the 217-page report of the expert committee was made public on the Assembly website and the Public Information Officer provided the report to Nadeem.

A study of this report of the committee revealed that all 396 ad hoc appointments were considered unconstitutional. It clearly mentions that Article 14 and Article 16 of the Constitution have been violated by not providing equal opportunity to all eligible and interested candidates for ad-hoc appointments made to the Assembly Secretariat from 2001 to 2022.

Para 11 of the report also mentions, "All these appointments are in violation of the provisions of the Rules."

"The provisions which have been shown in the report include not constituting a selection committee, not issuing advertisements or public notice for ad-hoc appointment nor obtaining names from employment exchanges, granting appointment on individual applications without seeking application forms," the report said.

The provision also includes not conducting any competitive examination, scheduled castes of the State of Uttarakhand as per the provisions of the rules," the report further mentioned.

Dalit atrocities: Conviction rate low in Guj

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

EVEN as the nation is celebrating 75 years of independence, atrocities against Dalits are continuing across the country. Worse, the conviction rate in such cases remains low. Gujarat, otherwise a developed state, best illustrates the plight of Dalits. Conviction rate in cases of Scheduled Caste atrocities between 2018 and 2021 was a mere 3.065 per cent in the state, much lower than the national average, according to data tabled in Rajya Sabha.

As recently as Friday, two police constables were suspended for beating up a Scheduled Caste child. The minor was allegedly found in possession of illegal liquor in the Nawagam Ghede area of Jamnagar district. On a complaint from the minor's father to district policy chief, an inquiry was ordered and subsequently the police personnel were suspended by Jamnagar Police Superintendent.

This is not the first incident that has come to light. It is unlikely to be last either.

The state government system is often found ineffective when it comes to punishing those who commit crimes against Dalits. Ruling BJP cannot escape the responsibility for this state of affairs because most of Assembly seats reserved for SC members have been under BJP rule for more than 27 years now. Out of 5,369 cases registered during 2018-2021, only 32 cases were proved against the accused while 1,044 cases have been decided. In 1,012 cases the accused were acquitted. These include serious cases like murder and rape.

Writer and Dalit rights activist Alice Morris sees this trend as alarming. "I disagree with the data. This data may be wrong because, as per my knowledge, there are many more cases than the registered data. Even NCRB data is underestimated."

Talking about the low conviction rate, Alice said: "If you look closely at the cases in which punishment has been ordered, there will be support behind some NGO or some powerful section of the society. Most of the time, the accused, the complainant and the witnesses are all from the same place, so they receive social and other pressures and because of this many cases go unregistered."

As per Dave, in most cases it is found that low conviction rate is not because of falsity of charges but because of shoddy investigations by the police.

SORRY STATE OF AFFAIRS

2018: 1,426 cases were registered under the Prevention of Dalit Atrocities Act. Of these, 450 cases were heard and only in 14 cases accused were found guilty.

2019: Out of 1,416 cases, conviction could be obtained only in seven cases. Hearing in 387 cases completed and the rest of the cases are pending before the court.

2020: Number of conviction cases decreased to a mere three, while the number of registered cases is 1,326. Hearings were completed in 68 cases.

2021: 1,201 cases were registered. While eight were convicted, 139 cases were pronounced by the court.

Source: Figures presented by Ajay Mishra, Minister of State for Home Affairs, in Rajya Sabha.

Most of the time, the accused, the complainant and the witnesses are all from the same place, so they receive social and other pressures and because of this many cases go unregistered

Alice Morris, Writer and Dalit rights activist

Blow to Punjab rural health sector as PHC docs moved to AAP clinics

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

EVEN as Punjab grapples with a shortage of doctors, the government has deputed several medical professionals working with Primary Health Centres (PHCs) to run the 400 Aam Aadmi clinics launched recently by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal. The move is expected to adversely hit rural health services in the state.

Doctors from Punjab Civil Medical Services (PCMS) working at the PHCs, along with those posted at the Community Health Centers (CHC), were instrumental in managing round-the-clock emergency health services at the block level in the midst of an acute shortage of MBBS doctors in the state.

"The PCMS doctors posted at PHCs were managing emergency duties at the CHCs, which they will not be able to do now. Emergency services will be hit," a doctor said on condition of anonymity.

Out of the sanctioned 4,000 plus posts of government doctors, about 1,000 are lying vacant, according to a cadre review conducted in 1991. No cadre review has been done over the last three decades, sources said.

PCMS Association president Dr Akhil Sarin said they have urged the government to ensure additional staff recruited via regular channels for the Aam Aadmi clinics. "PCMSA would like to suggest a more holistic expansion of health services in the state. The government should go ahead with their election promise of opening up AACs, but it should also focus on filling up the vacancies in the already existing healthcare set-up," he said.

The newly-launched scheme has been slammed by the Opposition, with the Shiromani Akali Dal calling it a massive scam and demanding an independent probe into it. Party leader Bikram Singh Majithia said AAP government is playing with the lives of people by diverting primary health services from 50% of the state's population to indulge in a PR exercise to revive the party's sinking ship in Punjab.

Majithia added that SAD would approach Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit and urge him to order a probe into the scam. "It first turned 100 Seva Kendra buildings into Mohalla clinics. Now it has turned 500 primary health centre buildings into Aam Aadmi Clinics," Majithia said.

$8 BILLION
gas deal signed between Italy and Libya, the largest single investment in Libya's energy sector in more than 20 years

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • SW: Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	9	-7	TDS	Los Angeles	13	7	LC
Colombo	31	22	LC	Melbourne	23	17	HR
Dhaka	28	16	TDS	Moscow	-3	-6	HR
Dubai	22	15	SNY	New York	11	6	LC
Houston	22	14	SNY	Singapore	27	24	TDS
Istanbul	7	3	LC	Toronto	1	-7	LC
London	9	5	LC	Washington	10	5	LC

Cops struck down Nichols with fists, batons and boots

Video shows officers pummeling & leaving him on footpath

MEMPHIS

AUTHORITIES released video footage on Friday showing Tyre Nichols being beaten by five Memphis police officers who held the Black motorist down and repeatedly struck him with their fists, boots and batons as he screamed for his mother.

The video is filled with violent moments showing the officers, who are also Black, chasing and pummeling Nichols and leaving him on the pavement propped against a squad car as they fist-bump and celebrate their actions.

Protesters gathered for mostly peaceful demonstrations in multiple cities, including Memphis, where several demonstrators blocked the Interstate 55 bridge that carries traffic over the Mississippi River toward Arkansas.

In Washington, protestors gathered in Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House and near the Black Lives Matter Plaza.

The lengthy video footage from police body cameras shows a group of officers detaining Nichols, attempting to take him down with the use of a Taser, then giving chase as he evades them. After the first officer roughly pulls Nichols out of a car, Nichols can be heard saying, "I didn't do anything," as a group of officers begins to wrestle him to the ground. Two officers hold Nichols to the ground as he moves about, and then the third appears to kick him in the head. Nichols slumps more fully onto the pavement with all three officers surrounding him. The same officer kicks him again.

The fourth officer then walks over, draws a baton and holds it up at shoulder level as two officers hold Nichols upright, as if he were sitting.

The video raised questions about the role and possible culpability of the other officers at the scene, in addition to the five who were charged. The footage shows a number of other officers standing around after the beating.

Memphis Police Director Cerelyn "CJ" Davis has said other officers are under investigation for their part in the arrest. During the traffic stop, the video shows the officers were "already ramped," she said. The officers were "aggressive, loud, using profane language and probably scared Mr. Nichols from the very beginning."

AP

Demonstrators protest the death of Tyre Nichols on Friday in Memphis | AFP

FOREIGN LOAN INFLOWS OF PAKISTAN SLOW DOWN: REPORT

Pakistan received only $5.6 billion in foreign loans during the first half of current fiscal year, equal to about one-fourth of the annual budget estimate, as per a media report on Saturday

$5.6 billion

Data compiled by the Ministry of Economic Affairs showed that foreign loan disbursements from July to December 2022 stood at a mere $5.6 billion, the *Express Tribune* reported

The report added that the disbursements were not enough to finance the maturing foreign debt, making a severe dent in the foreign exchange reserves held by the central bank

WHY THE LOW DISBURSEMENTS?

The key reason for the low disbursements was the government's failure to ensure the timely completion of the ninth review of the IMF programme. As a consequence, the receipt of $5.6 billion was equal to only one-fourth of the annual budget estimate of $22.8 billion

INSUFFICIENT LOANS

Pakistan received just $532 million in loans in December, which were not sufficient for making major repayments

In the past seven days, the country paid $828 million to Chinese financial institutions. As a result, the official foreign exchange reserves slipped to $3.1 billion

About 44% of the loans received in December came from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which gave $231 million. So far, the ADB has remained the largest lender with disbursement of $1.9 billion

Against the annual estimate of $7.5 billion, Pakistan has only received $200 million in foreign commercial loans in the current fiscal year, the report said

The government now expects it will receive $6.3 billion in commercial loans, which appears to be on the higher end

It had also hoped to get loans of $1.6 billion under the most expensive Naya Pakistan Certificates. So far, $190 million, or 11% of the annual estimate, has been received

Must help India find substitutes to Russian arms: Biden admin

WASHINGTON

AHEAD of her India visit for 'foreign office consultations' Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Victoria Nuland, has told lawmakers that the US needs to help India find alternatives to Russian military equipment and that is part of the "job we have to do."

Nuland is travelling to India as part of a four-nation trip including Nepal, Sri Lanka and Qatar from January 28 to February 3. "I think they (India) find themselves after 60 years of entanglement having to find alternatives, and that's part of the job we have to do, is help them with alternatives," Nuland told members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee during a Congressional hearing on Russia.

She was responding to a question from Senator Jeff Merkley when she told lawmakers that she is travelling to India.

"I'm glad to hear that you're going to India. I would think that after the performance of Russian weapons on the battlefield has been demonstrated, they might be somewhat less interested," Merkley said.

Victoria Nuland | AFP

India has faced flak from US lawmakers, both Republicans and Democrats, for choosing to abstain from a UN vote to rebuke Russia's invasion of Ukraine. US officials have also expressed concern over India's purchase of the S-400 missile systems by Russia.

"On my last trip to India, that was one of the first things we said, look at how these weapons perform on the battlefield," Nuland said in response.

Merkley said both India and South Africa, along with the ASEAN nations, with whom the US is having difficulty in getting to take a strong stand against Russia. "I think it particularly bothers me with democracy in South Africa as democracies," he said. *PTI*

Trump kicks off 2024 prez bid with visits to key states

WASHINGTON

FORMER US President Donald Trump is set to kick off his 2024 White House bid on Saturday with visits to a pair of early voting states, his first campaign events since launching his bid more than two months ago.

Trump will be the keynote speaker at the New Hampshire GOP's annual meeting before travelling to Columbia, South Carolina, where he is set to unveil his leadership team at the Statehouse.

Trump and his allies hope the events will offer a show of force behind the former president after a sluggish start to his campaign that left many questioning his commitment to running again. In recent weeks, his backers have been reaching out to political operatives and elected officials to secure support for Trump's reelection at a critical juncture when other Republicans are preparing their own expected challenges.

"The gun is fired, and the campaign season has started," said Stephen Stepanek, chair of the New Hampshire Republican Party. While Trump remains the only declared 2024 presidential candidate, a host of potential challengers, including Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, former Vice President Mike Pence and former S Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, who served as Trump's ambassador to the United Nations, are widely expected to launch campaigns in the coming months. *AP*

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my client intends to purchase the property described in the Schedule hereunder with its Owner Mr.G.Jayanth. Reddy son of E.Gurumurthy Reddy, Persons/banks/society/firm or any other body having any right, title, interest, claim or charge over the schedule mentioned property or any part thereof is hereby notified to lodge their objections/claims if any, in writing with documentary evidence regarding their manner of right, title, interest, claim or charge,within 5 days from the date of this publication to the office of undersigned, after which period my client shall proceed to purchase the schedule mentioned property on the basis that there are no objections/claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the schedule mentioned property.

SCHEDULE

ALL that piece and parcel of the Site No. 1 being part of the Khatha No. 139/1 property no. 30 of Kaggadsapura Village (Nagappa Reddy Layout, 1 to 7th cross, 1st Main, Nagappa Reddy Layout, Bangalore-560 093), Krishnaraja puram Hobli, now within the limits of the Ward No. 81-Vignana nagar of the BBMP, and bounded on the

EAST by:- Site No. 2 and measuring 47 feet and 6 inches on that side; WEST by:- 25 feet road and measuring 47 feet 3 inches on that side; NORTH by:- Ramaiah's property and measuring 31 feet and one inches on that side; and SOUTH by:-Twenty five feet road and measuring 31 feet and 1 inches on that side. The total area of this site is about 1475.695 square feet.

LEGAL & LEGAL,
Advocate, Flat No.103, Ramya Nest Apt., OMBR Layout, Banaswadi, Bengaluru 560 043
Mob: 9900111844, 8050769070,

IN THE COURT OF THE 72nd ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT MAYO HALL, BANGALORE CCH-73

O.S. No.26343/2021 Hg: 17/02/2023

Between
HDFC LIMITED,
Having its Registered Office at Ramon House, H.T. Parek Marg, 169 Backbeat Reclamation, Church gate Mumbai-400 020 interalia
Having its Branch a office at 'HDFC House' No.51, Kasturba Road, Bengaluru-560001 .... Plaintiff
And
Mohammed Ghouse Ayathur Rahaman & Ors. ....Defendants

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT NO. 1

To,
Mohammed Ghouse Ayathur Rahaman,
Aged : About 46 years,
S/o : H.M GHOUSE, **Rep. By his POA Holder, Ms. Shawar Tabassum,**
Residing at: Flat No.10, Building Omaniyath, Safwa Road, 4th street, Thuqba Alkhobar, Dhamam, Saudi Arabia - 34623.
And at: #20, 6th Cross, Kanakanagar, RT Nagar Post, Bangalore, Karnataka-560032
And also at: Future Ceramic Company, Second Industrial City, Dhamam, Saudi Arabia - 34332
And also at: C/o : Shawar Tabassum, #12, G Block, 1st Cross, Kanakanagar, R.T Nagar Post, Bangalore – 560032.
And also at: Apartment bearing No. J004, Ground Floor, Block No.J, "Urbana Pavilion", Kannamangala Village, KasabaHobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District-562 110 ...**Defendant No.1**

SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of converted lands in Survey Nos. 74, 86/1, 87/2 (P) and Survey No. 87/3, together admeasuring 5 Acres and 4.07 Guntas, situated at Kannamangala Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore District, issued by the Deputy Commissioner and bounded on : East by : 12.0 Mts Wide Road (Approved Layout Road); West by : Private Property bearing Survey No.88/2; North by : 12.0 Mts Wide Road (Approved Layout Road); South by : Proposed 40 Mts Wide Master Plan Road.

SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY

(Undivided Share of land agreed to be conveyed) Undivided Share of land in Schedule 'B' Property which is proportionate to Schedule C Apartment.

SCHEDULE "C" APARTMENT

A Three bedroom apartment measuring bearing **No. J 004,** Ground Floor, Block No. J of the Residential Apartment Complex known as **"URBANA PAVILION"** to be built at the cost of the Second Party on the Schedule 'A measuring **1508 Sq. ft.** super built-up area together with limited rights to use common areas, passages, lobbies, staircases and other areas of common use and exclusive right to use the 1 No. of car park.

Whereas, the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of **Rs. 52,65,320/- as on 12/08/2021** along with interest at 9.55% p.a and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the 72nd Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore [CCH 73] in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on **17/02/2023 at 11 A.M.**

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Court, this 24th day of January 2023.

By order of the Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court, Mayo Hall Unit
Bangalore

Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No.109, Commerce House,
9/1, Cunningham Road,
Bangalore – 560052

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ONE BOOK, ONE PEN, ONE CHILD, AND ONE TEACHER CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

MALALA YOUSAFZAI

INNOVA LAW SOLUTIONS

F-25-26, 1st Floor, 186/1, J.C Complex Annexxe, Sirur Park Road, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020, Email: hs.sundaresha@gmail.com. Tel: 41241118.

PUBLIC NOTICE

GENERAL PUBLIC ARE HEREBY INFORMED THAT as informed by my clients and owners Mrs. Rahma Sankaran, Mr. Karthik Sankaran, and Ms.Mathujitha Sankaran has lost the original sale deed document no KRI-1-17210- 2005-06 dated: 08.02.2006 with respect of schedule property hereunder executed by M.R.Munireddy and others in favor of Kumbakonam Subramaniam Sankaran near AECS Layout White field, Bangalore.

That my client request the public, if anybody has traced the said document to please hand over the same to him or to the undersigned office within 07 days from the date of publication hereof.

Schedule property

All that piece and parcel of immovable site property A three bedroom Apartment bearing No.810-A, on the eight floor of the "A" Block of the building 'KNIGHTS BRIDGE'at survey No128/1 in Kundalahalli village, K.R.PuramHobli, Bangalore and bounded on

East by: Vijayraju property, **West** by : Narayanappa property, **North** by : Padmareddy property, **South** by : Road

Sd/- Sundaresha
Advocate
Innova Laws Solutions
Ph : 9845697218, 9448031017

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL AND SMALL CAUSE JUDGE AT BENGALURU (SCCH-18)

S.C No: 127/2022

Between: Karnataka Bank LTD., A Banking Company incorporated under the Indian Companies Act 1913, Having its Registered And head office at "MAHAVEERA CIRCLE", Kankanady, Mangaluru - 575002 and its Kasturba Road Branch, Kasturba Road, Bangalore - 560001, Represented by its Branch Manager. ... Plaintiff
And.
Mr. Kadaraiah & Others ... Defendants

NOTICE /SUMMONS TO DEFENDANTS

1.Mr. Kadaraiah, Major, No.226, Janatha Colony, Shetti Halli, Jalahalli West, Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru - 560015 Karnataka, India.
2. Mr. Muniswamy K, Major, No. 399, Thigaiaryapalya Kariobanahalli, Bengaluru, Bengaluru Urban Bangalore-560058 Karnataka, India.

NOTICE/SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT/S

Whereas the above named plaintiff instituted a suit against you for recovery of money of **Rs.56,766.18** (Rupees Fifty Six Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Six and Paisa Eighteen Only) from the Defendants Jointly and severally and together with court costs and future normal interest at the rate of 17.70% till the date of the suit till relaxation. You are hereby summoned to appear before this court on **03/03/2023 at 11A.M.** in person or through advocate/pleader to answer the questions to the same, failing which the suit will be heard and determined as Ex- parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court, on this **4thday , January 2023.**

By Order of the Court
Sd/-Asst. Registrar
Court of small Causes, Bangalore-560 009

Address For Service: Nithin Chandra.M
Advocate & Legal Consultant,
#10/6, 1st Floor, 2nd Main, 5th cross,
KHM Block, Opp. Hotel Shanthi Sagar,
R.T. Nagar Bangalore - 560032.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General public that my client Sri.Prashanth Gururaj s/o Sri.D.N. Gururaj and Smt. Brinda Chaitra w/o Sri.Prashanth Gururaj, intends to purchase an immovable agricultural property described in the schedule below from Sri. Narayana Gowda, aged about 78 years S/o. Singri Gowda and Smt. Chikkatayamma alias Puttalingamma, aged about 63 years w/o Sri. Narayana Gowda. R/ at MuradiHosahalli, KasabaHobli, Ammanayakanadoddi, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagar, Karnataka -562117.

Any person/s, agents, Company bank/s having any claim, any charge, Lien, minor claims, right/s on tittle interest whatsoever over the schedule property may lodge their claim to the under signed with documentary proof within 7 days from the date of publication of this public notice. Failing which my client will treat that there are no objections or claims in respect of the schedule property. No claims shall be entertained thereafter.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural land bearing Old survey No: 3/3, New survey No: 3/5., measuringa total extentof 2 Acre.Land isinMuradiHosahalli, KasabaHobli, Ammanayakanadoddi, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagar, Karnataka -562117. Bounded on East by: Puttalinge Gowda Land, West by: Asphalted Road, North by :Government Land, South by :Nanje Gowda Land

Sri.VERRAPPA AND ASSOCIATES, ADVOCATES
Opp. Vani Talkies, Kanakapura Main Road KanakapuraTaluk, Ramanagar Karnataka - 562117
MOBLE NO 94483 88133

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that, my client Sri Bhanu Pratap Bandaluppli Son of late B. Ravindra Rao, residing at B-21, Goyal and Co, Alanoville, Kannur Post, Hennur Bagaluru Main Road, Bengaluru - 562 149, has lost the title document "Deed of Absolute Sale" dated 10th December, Two Thousand Nine (10/12/2009) executed by Sri M. Puttaswamy in favour of my client with respect to Site Nos. 21 and 26, Katha No. 712/64/21,26, property bearing No. 64, situated at Yerrappanahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, each sites measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 60 feet, totally each sites measuring 2400 square feet, through a document bearing No. BDH-1-04149-2009-10, stored in C.D.No. BDHD32, registered in the office of the Sub-registrar, Bidarahalli, Bengaluru in the last month, while shifting the house on 11.12.2022 at Byatarayanapura signal, near Amruthahalli to Alanoville, Hennur- Bagaluru Main Road in Bangalore. My client has made best efforts in tracing the above said title document. It is hereby notified to the general public that if any person found same be sent to the below mentioned address. Further, it is cautioned that, if any person dealing with the said lost document or misusing or encumbering of any sort, they will be held sole responsible for all such act/s and deeds and not to deal with the same. My client will in no way concerned with regard to any sort of such transactions to be done or proposed to be done on the basis of the said title document by any third parties.

Address for service :
D. Govardhan, Advocate,
No. 135, 1st Floor, Coconut Avenue, 8th Cross Down, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560 003, Mob : 9739090456.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General public that my client Sri.Prashanth Gururaj s/o Sri.D.N. Gururaj and Smt. Brinda Chaitra w/o Sri.Prashanth Gururaj, intends to purchase an immovable agricultural property described in the schedule below from Sri. Narayana Gowda, aged about 78 years S/o. Singri Gowda and Smt. Chikkatayamma alias Puttalingamma, aged about 63 years w/o Sri. Narayana Gowda. R/ at MuradiHosahalli, KasabaHobli, Ammanayakanadoddi, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagar, Karnataka -562117.

Any person/s, agents, Company bank/s having any claim, any charge, Lien, minor claims, right/s on tittle interest whatsoever over the schedule property may lodge their claim to the under signed with documentary proof within 7 days from the date of publication of this public notice. Failing which my client will treat that there are no objections or claims in respect of the schedule property. No claims shall be entertained thereafter.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural land bearing Old survey No: 3/3, New survey No: 3/5., measuringa total extentof 2 Acre.Land isinMuradiHosahalli, KasabaHobli, Ammanayakanadoddi, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagar, Karnataka -562117. Bounded on East by: Puttalinge Gowda Land, West by: Asphalted Road, North by :Government Land, South by :Nanje Gowda Land

Sri.VERRAPPA AND ASSOCIATES, ADVOCATES
Opp. Vani Talkies, Kanakapura Main Road KanakapuraTaluk, Ramanagar Karnataka - 562117
MOBLE NO 94483 88133

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. 41 UBL 2022-23
Dated: 21-01-2023

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Name of work	Approx. Value
1	**Hubballi Division :-** **Sub Work -I** :- TTR (CS+CMSC)-14 Sets in Hubballi Yard. **Sub Work -II** :- TTR (TWR+CMSC) - 2 Sets in Hubballi Yard. **Sub Work -III** :- Replacement of overaged SEJ's with PSC improved SEJ-60 Kg. in Dharwad - Alnavar Section under Assistant Divisional Engineer/West/ Juridiction.	Rs. 1,12,31,002/-
2	**Hubballi Division :-** Upkeeping of Track in newly commissioned doubling lines in Karajgi - Saunshi and Gadag-Hole Alur Section for a total stretch of 92.369 Km.	Rs. 2,38,26,787/-
3	**Hubballi Division :-** Annual Track maintenance in SSE/P.Way /HPT(BL) Section. for a period of one year	Rs.1,97,07,598/-
4	**Hubballi Division :-** Annual Track maintenance in SSE/P.Way /KTY Section. for a period of one year.	Rs. 2,53,73,643/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 17-02-2023**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer /Co-Ordination
PUB/633/AAD/PRB/SWR/2022-23 Hubballi
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby notified that, my clients intend to purchase the residential property bearing Municipal No.25 (old Site No.71), having PID No.77-93-25 measuring East to West: 70 ft and North to South: 50 ft totally measuring 3500 Sq.ft along with a building thereon situated at Madhavanagar Main Road, Bangalore from its Owner: **Mr.Umesh S Moorthy** S/o Sri.M.Sachidananda Moorthy residing at No.25/34, 1st Floor, Vishwanatha Rao Road, Madhavanagar, Bangalore- 560 001. Mr.Umesh S Moorthy has lost/misplaced the Original Partition Deed dated 25/01/2003, registered as Doc. No. 4462/2002-2003 and stored in CD No.19, in the office of the Sub Registrar, Gandhinagar, Bangalore, with respect to aforesaid property.

Mr.Umesh S Moorthy has lodged a Police complaint with Bangalore City Police Station on 27/01/2023, with respect to loss/misplacement of the above said Original Partition Deed dated 25/01/2003, registered as Doc.No.4462/2002-2003. If anyone is holding or otherwise finds the said original Partition Deed dated 25/01/2003, he/she is hereby requested to hand over the same to the undersigned and he/she will be rewarded appropriately.

Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank (A Government of India Undertaking)

KORAMANGALA LAYOUT BRANCH
348, 100 ft Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560034. Ph : 080-25536364, 9483520885
Email Id : cb0885@canarabank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE [Section 13(4)] (for immovable property)

Whereas: The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **03.04.2021** calling upon the borrower **Sri. Rakesh Dhiman,** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs. 21,57,283.96/-** (Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Fifty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Three and Ninety Six Paise). Within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this **25.01.2023**

The borrower in particular and the public general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for an amount of **Rs. 20,42,448.96/-** (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Forty Two Thousand Four Hundred Forty Eighty and Ninety Six Paise) + interest & other charges thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY :

Residential property bearing No. 577, Municipal No. New 6, Situated at M M Layout, K B sandra, 3rd B Cross Road, Presently falling under the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP, Ward No. 95, Bangalore. Measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 30 feet. **Name of Tital Holder Mr. Rakesh Dhiman. Bounded by East By :** Road, **West By :** Property No. 91, **North By :** Property No. 95, **South By :** Property No. 93.

Date: 25.01.2023 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bengaluru **Canara Bank**

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is intended to purchase the schedule property for a valuable consideration from Rajanna S/o Siddagangaiah, aged about 61 years, residing at No.36, Yantaganahalli Post, Srinivasapura, Bangalore Rural -562 123.

If any person/s, financial institution, company having any claims, right, title, interest, whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing, within seven days from the date of this notice. Failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims, right, title or interest by anybody and my client will proceed with the purchase transaction and will get register the absolute sale deed of schedule property in to her name.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of dry Agricultural Land bearing Sy.No.140/6 measuring to an extent 0 Acre 30 Guntas situated at Srinivasapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on: **East:** Land belongs to Veerabadrayya & Kalaiah .K, **West:** Land belongs to Purnima Prabhu, **North:** Road and Land belongs to Kalaiah .K, **South:** Land belongs to Manjunath.

G. NARAYANA HEBBAR
Bangalore Dated: 28.01.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that, our Client is intending to purchase the Schedule Property mentioned below from its Owner Mrs. Thanuja S.R., wife of Vishal Raj, #19, Sri Dev Residency, 4th Cross Chowdaiah Block, R.T. Nagar Bangalore-560032. It is represented by the Owner that, she has acquired the Schedule Property in terms of Sale Deed dated: 21.10.2022 executed by Narayanaswamy and his family members registered as Document No.DNH-1-09109/2022-23, stored in CD.No. DNHD1655, in the Office the Senior Sub-Registrar, Devanahalli. It is represented further by the Owner that she has clear, valid and marketable title to the Schedule Property and it is free from all encumbrances.

If any person/s who claim/s any right, title or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in respect of Schedule Property and/or any objections of any nature to the transaction should lodge such claims and/or objections in writing to the undersigned together with supporting documents within Seven days hereof, failing which it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and our Client would proceed to complete the transaction with aforesaid Owner subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Agricultural land in Sy.No.262/6, (Old Sy No.262/1), situated at Avathi Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, measuring 0.30 Guntas, and bounded on the: East By :Sy No.262/2, Old No.262, West By :Road, North By:Sy No.266, South By: Sy No.262/5, Old No.262.

ADINATH NARDE
Adinath Narde and Revathy Associates, Advocates,
No.101, First Floor, "The Presidency",
Old No. 1, New No.82, St. Mark's Road,
Bangalore-01, Phone : 22247651/22104246

Place : Bengaluru
dated: 28.01.2023

DEUTSCHE BANK AG

Appendix IV [Rule 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of the Deutsche Bank AG, India ("Bank") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated **06/07/2021** calling upon the borrower **M/s. Gurukrupa Bar and Restaurant, Mr. Shrinivasaiah K, M/s. Sapthagiri Bar and Restaurant, Mrs. Kokila B N, M/s. Vinayaka Bar and Restaurant, Mr. Yeshwanth K S and Mr. Khandesh Gowda K S ("Borrower")** to repay the outstanding amount as mentioned in the notice being **Rs.6,48,17,841.26 (Rupees Six Crore Forty Eight Lakh Seventeen Thousand Eight Hundred Forty One and Twenty Six Paisa Only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said act read with rule 9 of the said act on this **25th day of January of the year 2023.**

The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank for an amount of **Rs.6,48,17,841.26 (Rupees Six Crore Forty Eight Lakh Seventeen Thousand Eight Hundred Forty One and Twenty Six Paisa Only) and interest thereon.**

Description of the Immovable Property

"SCHEDULE"

All that piece and parcel of a site No.89, PID No.35-121-89 measuring East - West 40 feet and North - South 70 feet in all 2800 sft formed out of the lands of Sy. Nos. 412, 415, 443, 444, 445, 446 & 467 situated at 12th Main, 2nd Stage, The Binny Mill Layout, BBMP Ward No. 125 (old No.35), Kempapura Agrahara village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded on the: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Property No.90, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Property No. 122.

Date: 29.01.2023 Ajay Singh - **Authorized Officer**
Place: Bengaluru **Deutsche Bank A.G.**

WESTERN RAILWAY

E-PROCUREMENT

TENDER NOTICE No.S/04/2023 Date 27.01.2023

SR.NO.	SHORT DESCRIPTION OF ITEM	QUANTITY	T.O.D.
33	Procurement Of Flexible Copper Cable For the POH of Track Machines	82650 Mtr	13-Feb-23
34	Manufacture and Supply of Welding Portions For Fusion Welding of Rails by Alumino Thermic Process For 60kg/60E1 (R-260 grade) Rail and 60kg (90UTS)	10000 Nos	13-Feb-23
35	Manufacturing & Supply of Derailing Switches For 60 Kg. Rails on PSC Sleeper to RDSO Drawing No.T-6068	98 Set	14-Feb-23
36	Helical Springs For WAP7 Loco	6 Set	14-Feb-23
37	Toyota Hycross, Model Gasoline GX 7S	2 Nos	14-Feb-23
38	Over Head O.T. Lights With H D Camera	1 Nos	15-Feb-23
39	Procurement Of Mechanical Spares for Track Machine	1884 Nos	15-Feb-23
40	Holding Magnet Valve	248 Nos	16-Feb-23
41	LMLA Battery 2V/80AH	1090 Nos	17-Feb-23
42	Wedge for Casnub Bogies	2338 Nos	20-Feb-23
43	Single Pan Pantograph	18 Nos	20-Feb-23
44	SMPS Based IPS	29 Set	20-Feb-23
45	Bolster Liner Size 153mm X 120mm X 8mm Thick	32520 Nos	22-Feb-23
46	Lead Acid Battery 110 V 40 AH Capacity	34 Set	24-Feb-23
47	Complete Air Bellow	7 Nos	27-Feb-23
48	Manufacture and Supply Of Welding Portions For Fusion Welding of Rails by Alumino Thermic Process for 60Kg (90 UTS) rails	20000 Nos	27-Feb-23
49	Switch For Headlight	140 Nos	28-Feb-23
50	Equaliser Beam	91 Nos	01-Mar-23

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in, and www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in

For Principal Chief Materials Manager

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5% rise in consolidated net profit of ₹4,854.36 crore reported by state-run power giant NTPC for the December quarter, mainly due to higher revenue

FM likely to live within means

Anil K Sood, founder, IASCC, sees pragmatism written all over Union Budget 2024

SUNITHA NATTI

ELECTIONS often produce populist budgets. But Anil K Sood, founder, IASCC, sees pragmatism written all over Union Budget 2024.

The reasons aren't hard to find. According to Sood, though the prevailing economic conditions warrant higher spending, the government is likely to live within its means, like it has been doing over the past few years.

His proposed ₹45.7 lakh crore-expenditure budget has three champions -- food and primary healthcare, rural and urban infrastructure development, and higher capex for a growth-oriented economy. All three need cash, so he urged the government to borrow without hesitation. An average Indian household is yet to recover from the post-pandemic shocks. An accountant's view of life, focusing on artificial fiscal deficit target makes a bad situation worse, he reasons. Much like Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the Shadow Budget makes capex as its cornerstone, allocating a neat sum of ₹8.09 lakh crore, a 13.3% increase over FY23. But the similarities end there. When it came to department-wise allocations, Sood's sums vary from that of the government's.

Unlike the Union Budget that cut a big cheque for roads and highways, Sood lowered the sum and redirected the savings elsewhere. Still, it saw a 13% jump over FY23. Defence got a 14.4% boost at ₹1.8 lakh crore, which is huge as capex allocations remained in single digits until now.

Interestingly, law and justice got the highest capex increase at 85.3%. Though the absolute allocation is tiny at ₹1,516 crore, it can increase capacities of digital and physical courts -- much-needed to clear the backlog. Food and public distribution too saw a 45% rise, which should help build warehousing facilities, besides others. Other departments like space, home affairs, housing and urban affairs all saw decent increase, but if you look closely the increase isn't much. As per the FY23 revised shadow Budget estimates (that draws heavily on government spending between April and November, 2022), several departments may under spend this fiscal.

EXPENDITURE BUDGET (₹CR)

	FY23 BE*	FY23 SRE*	FY24 SBE*	FY24 SBE % growth	FY24 SBE % of GDP
Agriculture	1,32,474	1,37,723	1,51,558	10	0.5
Defence	3,64,747	3,85,490	4,39,518	14	1.45
Food & public distribution	2,15,635	4,67,948	4,54,674	-2.8	1.5
Education	1,04,260	1,11,844	1,24,278	11.1	0.41
Health & family welfare	80,568	1,15,122	1,27,309	10.6	0.42
Rural development	1,38,204	1,43,270	1,57,620	10	0.52
Home affairs	1,69,023	1,71,812	1,90,963	11.1	0.63
Chemicals & fertilizers	1,07,709	2,28,881	2,30,368	0.6	0.76
Home affairs	1,69,023	1,71,812	1,90,963	11.1	0.63

■ BE: Budget estimate ■ SBE: Shadow Budget estimate ■ SRE: Shadow Revised Estimate
Source: IASCC

In all, for three years, capex has been seeing a double-digit rise making up for the slack in private investment. But will private capex hook step its way to the front line next fiscal at least? Unlikely, says Sood.

RUN-UP TO BUDGET

That's because, the two key components of private investment are yet to show a proof of life. One, the residential real estate sector's two good years of growth was largely driven by reduction of stamp duties. Next fiscal may not have that advantage. Two, business expansion is driven by capacity utilization, which in turn is driven by consumption. The latest RBI's consumer confidence and industrial outlook surveys aren't really future-optimistic.

Meanwhile, of the total revenue expenditure, the biggest allocation went to food and public distribution at ₹4.5 lakh crore, or 1.5% of GDP. Much of this is due to free good grains distribution, which critics and the opposition dub as populist. However, Sood believes it's acceptable to continue the measure as long as the government's intent is to make food affordable for poorer households and not with an eye on the vote bank. Defence budget saw a 14% jump at ₹4.4 lakh crore, including ₹2.72 lakh crore for defence services and the remaining ₹1.42 lakh crore for pensions. Agriculture saw a modest rise of 10% at ₹1.51 lakh crore, though as a percentage of GDP it's dismal at 0.50%. Likewise, education budget shot up 11.1%, but remains at 0.41% of GDP, a galaxy light years away from the acceptable 6% norm.

Though Sood favours doubling of healthcare spending every four years, he went with a conservative 10.6% increase for FY24. That the country severely lacks primary healthcare centres is a well-travelled fact, but even private healthcare infrastructure seems inadequate and hence the government should make efforts and make it conducive for private sector capacity expansion. Housing and urban affairs and rural development got their due with budget allocations rising by 9.4% and 10%, respectively.

For FY24, subsidy outgo is expected at ₹4.25 lakh crore or 1.4% of GDP. On the income-side, revenue receipts are expected to shoot up 13% at ₹26.91 lakh crore, while debt receipts jumped 4.8% to bridge the required revenue gap of ₹17.85 lakh crore. Accordingly, fiscal deficit is moored at 5.9% of GDP for FY24.

Direct taxes are unlikely to repeat FY23's stellar performance. Corporate income taxes are likely to grow at 12.9%, with personal income taxes trailing behind with just two decimal points different at 12.7%. Corporate profitability is also a function of inflation and considering the economic slowdown, Sood believes corporate sector growth and revenue haul to remain subdued in FY24. As for personal taxes, he foresees a few modifications in the tax structure. While expectations are high that exemptions will be included in the new concession tax regime, according to Sood, it goes against the grain of simplification and must be avoided. He, however, expects long-term capital gains taxes to undergo rationalisation.

Given the renewed focus on compliance, GST collections will sprint next fiscal clocking 14.3% growth at ₹9.85 lakh crore. The other components of indirect taxes including customs duties and excise duties are likely to maintain their trendline growth of about 12% each. Together, they are likely to raise ₹5.12 lakh crore, or 17% of gross tax revenue.

Non-tax revenue may to register 13.3% growth at ₹3.21 lakh crore, of which dividends and profits are likely to yield ₹1.21 lakh crore or a 18.4% growth over FY23. Sood doesn't fancy a significant sum from disinvestments this fiscal or next and its proceeds are pegged at a modest ₹60,000 crore.

UNEMPLOYMENT

NEED TO PIVOT FISCAL POLICY TOWARDS JOB CREATION

FOR those aged 15 and above in urban areas, despite being available for work, finding a job that can help one survive and manage subsistence has been a struggle. Youth unemployment rate across India has been at its highest peak in the last four decades.

Low growth and private investment cycle has further made the post-pandemic recovery of 'jobs' from areas of manufacturing to agri-business, where most new workers are employed, extremely precarious. The crisis perpetuates itself as sub-contractualisation of work even within the organised sector promotes insecurity among existing workers about their future. Massive layoffs being seen across the tech sector is a glaring example.

DEEPANSHU MOHAN

So, when it comes to mapping the key fiscal priorities for the Union Government this upcoming budget, the answer should be pretty simple: Spend Towards Creating Good Jobs. Else, India's demographic dividend period may soon be recognized as a period of a demographic disaster-or worse, a lost decade for the 'youth'. Somewhere PM Modi is also cognizant of this crisis in a year which will this government's last full Budget session before the 2024 National Elections. Measures like Naukri Mela are all part of an appeasement drive to pivot more young voters towards the BJP by 'handing over jobs'. Unfortunately, that may all seem less likely if the poor performance on job creation continues for the government.

It's not as if the government's previous budgets didn't try to address some of these issues.

The last few years' pandemic budget outlays by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman sought to offer a 'pro-growth' vision -- seeing the government increase its capex spending with the hope to 'crowd-in' private investment and reviving 'Animal Spirits' for growth.

Many 'supply-side' interventions were made to ensure that all sectors get a boost in investment that can help with job creation and a higher growth performance. Schemes like Performance Linked Incentive (PLI), PM Gati Shakti, National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) amongst others were all part of the Modi Government's ambitious measures to do this-in the subsequent hope of creating jobs through private investment.

However, so far, they have all yielded disappointing results.

India's Employment Challenge

For budget 2023, the biggest macro-fiscal challenge is creating good quality jobs for those joining the workforce. Acknowledging the issue would be the first step for the government (note: none of the finance minister speeches in the past four to five years have even acknowledged the employment concern). Correct diagnosis of the issue at hand is equally important. Most fiscal measures taken so far by the government are part of 'supply-side' interventions which, as per evidence, not always work. It must be emphasised that looking at the overall unemployment rate to picture the labour market realities isn't always the right thing to do. Amid many concerns in disjointed labor market structure, one of them is how most adults don't clearly express desire to work to earn wages or profits. That makes traditional socio-economic metrics less significant in interpreting the problem.The employment-population ratio is a far more useful indicator measuring the ratio of employed to the total working age population. Employment rate in India rose to 43.90% in the second quarter of 2022 from 43.40% in the first quarter of 2022. But, compared to the actual demand for work, and overall labour force participation rate among the 15 and above age category, a 43.9% employment rate is sub-optimal.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

In rural India, the demand for MGNREGA work (seen as a fall back option as a safety net) still remains high despite the resurgence of some economic activity from second half of 2021. Inadequate MGNREGA budgets have made it difficult for states to provide adequate employment in rural areas who have less or no alternative employment opportunity.

Still, where the finance ministry may need to get their act straight a year before the 2024 Polls is clearly defining their fiscal spending priority in upcoming Budget on two critical things (addressing employment challenges): One, focus the design of our fiscal policy towards creating good quality jobs through incentives across labour-intensive sectors where government intervention has worked and do so over a three-to-five year fiscal plan.

Second, create a well-financed job-based social security nets by supporting increased outlays to MGNREGA in rural areas and create an urban version of National Employment Guarantee Scheme in cities for relief to those struggling to find employment in both rural-urban areas.

The DUET Program

Jean Dreze's own job-security proposal -- Decentralised Urban Employment and Training program (DUET) -- is based on a simple idea where a government issues 'job stamps' and distributes them to "approved public institutions – public health facilities, schools, colleges, shelters, jails, municipalities, transport corporations etc.". This author proposed this idea from of an urban-based job guarantee scheme to be pilot tested across cities to allow more young workers-entering the job market, including those migrating from rural areas, to be absorbed as part of a social-safety net and have jobs across different public works municipal programs in urban areas. This will do a lot to complement the existing MGNREGA program, restricted to rural areas. The real question is: whether the government has the will and the money to implement such a policy proposal now?

(Author is Associate Professor of Economics, and Director, Centre for New Economics Studies, Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities, OP Jindal Global University)

India plans to increase exploration acreage to 0.5 mn sq. km by 2025

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@ New Delhi

INDIA is planning to increase its exploration acreage to 0.5 million sq. km by 2025 and 1.0 million sq. km by 2030, said petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday.

Puri, speaking at an ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation) ceremony held on Sagar Samrat, said India's energy demand is likely to grow at about 3% per annum by 2040, as against the global rate of 1%. Further, 25% of the global energy growth between 2020 and 2040 is going to come from India due to its fast-growing economy, he said.

He asked to cut down on oil import, in which government spent nearly $120 billion in FY 2021-22. "India's Amrit Kaal can't be realised without achieving energy independence by 2047. Under this mandate, the government has taken multiple steps to ensure that our future generations enjoy energy security," the minister added

He said the government has been successful in reducing the 'No Go' area by 99%, thereby making available additional about 1 million Sq.km of India's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) for exploration. "Several MNCs like Chevron, ExxonMobil, and Total Energies are showing interest to invest in Indian E&P segment and some are in talks with ONGC for firming up mutually beneficial partnerships," he further added. During the event, Puri rededicated ONGC's iconic drilling rig Sagar Samrat, as a mobile offshore production unit (MOPU) at the ceremony. Commissioned in 1973, Sagar Samrat was built at Mitsubishi yard in Japan and set sail from Hiroshima on April 3, 1973. It drilled ONGC's first offshore well in 1974 in Mumbai Offshore region of Arabian Sea, then called the Bombay High.

EXPRESS READ

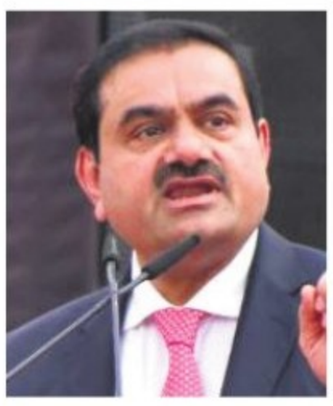
DCB Bank Q3 net profit rises 52% to ₹114 cr

NEW DELHI: Private sector DCB Bank on Saturday reported a 52% jump in its profit to ₹114 crore for the December 2022 quarter, mainly due to a decline in bad loans. The bank's net profit stood at ₹75 crore in the same quarter of the preceding financial year Total income rose to ₹541 crore in the December quarter from ₹463 crore in the year-ago period, the bank said. *PTI*

Samsung experience store comes up in Delhi

NEW DELHI: South Korean tech giant Samsung on Saturday inaugurated its largest experience store in North India at Connaught Place in Delhi. Spread over two floors, the store will showcase Samsung's complete product ecosystem through zones such as connected living, smartphones, audio, gaming, lifestyle screens and wearables, among others. *ENS*

No change in schedule, issue price of FPO, says Adani Enterprises



ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @Mumbai

REFUTING reports about change in schedule of Follow-on Public Offer, Adani Enterprise on Saturday said there is no plan to either extend the closing date or change the issue price of the ongoing FPO.

"There is no change in either the schedule or the issue price," Adani Enterprises (AEL) in a statement. "All our stakeholders including bankers and investors have full faith in the FPO. We are confident about the success of the FPO," it said.

Company's statement came after reports speculating about change in schedule of FPO. The reports said the bankers on the FPO are considering extending its closing date or slashing the issue price. The FPO, which opened on January 27, will conclude on January 31.

Hit by the report of US-based Hindenburg Research released on January 24, which raised concern about Adani Group's mounting debt and alleged irregularities, the shares of AEL have fallen sharply. Shares of the company closed at Rs 2,761.45 apiece on January 27, which is below Rs 3,112-3,276 per share price band of the Rs 20,000 crore FPO. Index provider MSCI has also sought information from the company. The index provider said it is aware of the reports recently published regarding the Adani group and associated securities.

"MSCI is closely monitoring publicly available information regarding the situation and the factors that may impact the eligibility of those relevant securities for the MSCI Global Investable Market Indexes," it said in a statement.

The index provider said it welcomes timely feedback from market participants on these issues. At present, there are eight Adani group & associates companies which are the part of MSCI Standard Index.

Market experts believe any adverse feedback may lead to a reduction in weightage or even exclusion of Adani stocks from the MSCI index.

Fadnavis inaugurates Bharati Vidyapeeth Medicover Hospitals in Navi Mumbai

Mumbai: It was a momentous occasion as Deputy Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated 310- bed Bharati Vidyapeeth Medicover Hospitals in Navi Mumbai. The hospital will provide world-class medical care to those living in and around Navi Mumbai, and is a major milestone for healthcare access in the city. Former Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri Prithviraj Chavan, Dr Vishwajeet Kadam, Pro Vice Chancellor, Chancellor Dr. Shivajirao Kadam, Dr. Vivek Saoji, Dr. Asmita Jagtap, Swapnali Kadam of Bharati Vidyapeeth was also present during the occasion along with other dignitaries.

Business & Beyond

PFC conferred on prestigious ICAI Gold Shield award

Gurugram:Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna PSU under Ministry of Power, Government of India has been awarded for extensive procurement through Government e-Marketplace (GeM)portal.

PPA Chairman P L Haranadh inaugurates SCADA system

Shri P L Haranadh, Chairman, PPA inaugurated SCADA system, which will operate drain connectivity and septic tanks of JB, JC, CHA & GJAI colonies with swearage treatment plant no 3 at Bhima Bhoi colony with no engagement of manpower. By this the waste water will be collected from drain and treated in treatment plant and reused in sprinkling.

GRSE takes a pledge to enhance 'Atmanirbharta'

Kolkata: India's 74th Republic Day was celebrated with patriotic fervour at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd at its headquarters in Kolkata on January 26, 2023. The shipyard has cause to celebrate. Over the last 12 months, GRSE has contributed immensely to the country's 'Atmanirbharta' pledge by launching and delivering several vessels, not only to the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard but also to friendly foreign countries like the Cooperative Republic of Guyana. The celebration at GRSE Bhawan started with unfurling of the national flag by Cmde P R Hari IN (Retd), Chairman and MD, GRSE.

Vedanta Aluminium ranks 2nd in S&P DJSI 2022 rankings

New Delhi: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, moves into 2nd spot in the S&P Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) world rankings for the aluminium industry for assessment period FY 21-22.

Ake strike lays down City marker on Arsenal

MANCHESTER: Mikel Arteta said Arsenal need to learn to be ruthless against Manchester City after Nathan Ake's goal earned Pep Guardiola's men a 1-0 win in the FA Cup fourth round on Friday. The sides will meet twice more in the next three months in the Premier League with the title on the line. Arsenal lead City by five points at the top of the table.

Not keen on IOA panel's hearing, top wrestlers give it a miss

INDRANEEL DAS/ FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

THE wrestlers, who had written to the Indian Olympic Association alleging various malpractice in the Wrestling Federation of India, including sexual harassment against its president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, apparently are not too keen on attending the IOA hearing.

Top wrestlers of the country — multiple World Championships medallist Vinesh Phogat, Olympic medallists Bajrang Punia, Ravi Dahiya, Sakshi Malik and Worlds medallist Deepak Punia — had sent a letter to the IOA on January 20, while they were protesting against WFI president. One of the demands in the letter was "immediately appoint a committee to enquire into the complaints of sexual harassment".

The IOA had asked "aggrieved wrestlers" to meet the IOA panel on Saturday. The IOA had formed a seven-member committee with multiple world champion and London Olympic bronze medallist MC Mary Kom at its helm. Other members in the committee are top archer Dola Banerjee, IOA treasurer Sahdev Yadav, London Olympic medallist Yogeshwar Dutt, joint secretary Alaknanda Ashok and two advocates.

A letter apparently was sent a couple of days ago to the wrestlers asking them to appear before the committee. However, it is learnt that the wrestlers did not do the same.

It is learnt that the wrestlers are not keen on meeting the IOA panel since they are dealing with the oversight committee appointed by the sports ministry. Two of the members are in IOA committee are part of the sports ministry's oversight committee as well.

The wrestlers had levelled serious allegations against WFI and its president. They have demanded the removal of Singh and the disbandment of the federation and its affiliated units. That was when they were protesting at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi.

The protest, which started on January 18, continued for three days before the sports ministry brokered a truce and formed a five-member panel that was headed by Mary Kom. Yogeshwar too is in the committee that has former TOPS CEO Rajesh Rajagopalan, former executive director TEAMS Radhica Sreeman and international shuttler Trupti Murgunde.

Meanwhile, the selected women wrestlers have been called for training camp at National Centre of Excellence in Sonepat on Saturday before travelling to Zagreb for the Ranking Series starting from February 1. It is understood that visas for Croatia have yet not been procured as yet. The men's freestyle wrestlers need to get their visas latest by Monday otherwise their participation in the event might not be possible. All the three teams will leave in batches.

Some of the wrestlers, who had protested and are not part of the Zagreb tournement, started training in Sonepat and had a session on Saturday too.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

South Africa **2-5** India, Argentina **6-0** Wales, Chile **2-4** France, Malaysia **3-2** Japan.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Battle for 3rd-4th: Australia vs Netherlands @ 4.30 pm. **Final:** Germany vs Belgium @ 7 pm.

All to play for

Germany aim to win their first World Cup since 2006. A look at some of the ingredients they possess which could come in handy...

WELLEN, THE FORWARD

He may have made news for becoming a father just before Germany's group-stage clash against Belgium. But, to be honest, Niklas Wellen has quietly become the go-to forward at this World Cup. He has come up with crunch goals including the hooter-beater against Australia in the semifinals. He's blessed with all the modern traits in that he isn't just a poacher. He can press, can drop back to link play and is also good when it comes to finishing.

MENTALITY

This is one of those great intangibles of elite sport. You cannot see it but you know damn well what it looks like. Germany have displayed it in abundance in the knockout stages. Sample this. Put together, across 120 minutes against England and Australia, they have led for six seconds yet they are in the final. It will keep them in good stead against the all-conquering Belgian side who seek control and depend on tiring the opposition down.

PEILLAT'S PENALTY CORNERS

One of the reasons why Belgium don't concede a lot of goals is the way defend their D. In Arthur van Doren and Co, they give nothing away. And the odd time they concede penalty corners, Vincent Vanasch and Victor Wegnez (first-rusher) are two of the best from dead-balls. Against Gonzalo Peillat, though, it's a different proposition. He's one of the best like he showed against Australia.

0 In the group game against Germany, Belgium conceded 0 penalty corners.

2016 Belgium last lost a big FIH match at the Rio Olympics final in 2016.

2012 Germany last won a big FIH title at the London Games in 2012.

Belgium are looking to become the fourth team after Pakistan, Germany & Australia to win back-to-back WC titles | DEBADATTA MALLICK

SEEKING IMMORTALITY

Red Lions look to create a legacy that will be talked about for ages

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Bhubaneswar

WATCHING Belgium in a hockey stadium is an exercise in marvelling at a truly elite team. Because hockey, by its very essence, is extremely fast, you see players running all the time. The Red Lions, though, don't run. They are so in sync they have no need to run. Paolo Maldini's quote — "If I have to make a tackle, then I have already made a mistake" — comes to mind when seeing them live. The quarterfinal against New Zealand was a case in point.

They scored the opening goal and remained in control throughout. It's the way they remained in control that was fascinating. It's like 11 men on a casual evening stroll, achieving their step count for the day. John-John Dohmen is truly the master at it. He is seemingly blessed at slowing the game down to his tunes. He receives the ball, scans the pitch for options, takes a few touches before always picking the right pass.

But then, it's no wonder how they have distilled the sport in this manner. It may be an old team — there are only four players under the age of 27 in this side — but there is enough experience in this side. Between the players they have selected, the average caps stand at roughly 250 per player. That means most of these players have lived through Belgium's rise, heartbreak and ecstacy.

Having lived through putting Belgium on the world hockey map, the challenge for this team now is something entirely different. "We are after a legacy," says goalkeeper Vincent Vanasch. That legacy Vanasch, who made his debut against India at Chennai in 2008, is talking about is making the Red Lions one of the greatest teams to have ever played the sport.

While it's always tricky to compare teams across generations and pitches, they will most certainly go down as one of the greatest teams to have played the sport if they pick up a second World Cup title in succession to go with the Olympic gold they won in 2021. In the 21st century, the only team that has displayed Belgium's sort of ruthlessness in the big events is Germany who won four titles (two Olympics and as many World Cups between 2002 and 2012). So, it's perhaps apt that their opponents on Sunday will be Germany, who have evolved their style under new management. They have also embraced Belgium's more zonal marking structure — it was this style that confounded so many teams when they first rose to prominence — after the 2018 World Cup.

To truly understand Belgium's rise, is to talk about two of the biggest matches they played before they began accumulating the titles. At the Champions Challenge in 2011 — a defunct FIH event — Belgium beat India in the final, thanks to a late Tom Boon goal. It was the sort of result that made the wider world appreciate the rising force (seven players from that final are playing now). The second match was a loss, against Argentina in the final of the 2016 Olympics. The loss, according to Vanasch, was 'a gift from the hockey Gods' for it taught all of them a lesson. "We learned a lot from that," he says. We lost it but if we had won it, we wouldn't have won all those titles. It was a gift from the hockey Gods."

Van Aubel, who was in the generation immediately after Vanasch's, is even more intimate about the defeat. "We had to lose some finals before we started winning those. We lost a big final and you just feel that we learned a lot from that whole experience. Our then coach, Shane McLeod, decided in 2016 to not work anymore with a mental coach because he has a psychology background. He started helping us mentally in different ways. That has clicked, he always tells us 'don't underestimate how good you guys can be'. So, he made us play with the self-confidence that we have now. We did know that we were good players but we didn't click. Now, we just feel that in important games, we click."

That's the other thing about this side. They don't lose the big games. Their last loss at a big FIH event came against Argentina in 2016. Van Aubel and Vanasch provide the answers.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

India beat South Africa, finish joint ninth

ROURKELA: India were once again amongst the goals as they ran out 5-2 winners over South Africa to finish joint 9th. It was perhaps apt that on a day they enjoyed near total domination, they still missed 5 of the 6 penalty corners (skipper Harmanpreet Singh got one). However, their fluid attacking play clicked.

Sabalenka joins Major league

AP @ Melbourne

THE serves were big. So big. Other shots, too. The points were over quickly. So quickly: Seven of the first 13 were aces.

And so it was immediately apparent in the Australian Open women's final between Aryna Sabalenka and Elena Rybakina that the one who could manage to keep her serve in line, get a read on returns and remain steady at the tightest moments would emerge victorious.

That turned out to be Sabalenka, a 24-year-old from Belarus, who won her first Grand Slam title by coming back to beat Wimbledon champion Rybakina 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 at Melbourne Park on Saturday night, using 17 aces among her 51 total winners to overcome seven double-faults.

It was telling that Sabalenka's remarks during the post-match ceremony were directed at her coach, Anton Dubrov, and her fitness trainer, Jason Stacy — she referred to them as "the craziest team on tour, I would say."

"We've been through a lot of, I would say, downs last year," said Sabalenka, who was appearing in her first major final. "We worked so hard and you guys deserve this trophy. It's more about you than it's about me." Now 11-0 in 2023 with two titles already, she is a powerful player whose most glowing strength was also her most glaring shortfall: her serve. Long capable of hammering aces, she also had a well-known problem with double-faulting, leading the tour in that category last year with nearly 400, including more than 20 apiece in some matches. After much prodding from her group, she finally agreed to undergo an overhaul of her serving mechanics last August. That, along with a commitment to trying to stay calm in the most high-pressure moments, is really paying off now.

The only set she has dropped all season was the opener on Saturday against Rybakina, who eliminated No 1 Iga Swiatek in the fourth round.

Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus celebrates her victory on Saturday | AP

FINAL: Aryna Sabalenka bt Elena Rybakina 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

MATCH STATS

Sabalenka		Rybakina
17	Aces	9
7	Double Faults	1
51	Winners	31
28	Unforced Errors	25
3/13	Break Point Conversions	2/7
110	Total Points Won	103

Home delight

The Australian pair of Rinky Hijikata and Jason Kubler defeated Hugo Nys and Jan Zielinski 6-4, 7-6 (4) to win the men's doubles title.

Djokovic seeks record, Tsitsipas eyes upset win

Facts and figures ahead of Sunday's Australian Open men's final (x denotes seeding)...

HEAD-TO-HEAD: DJOKOVIC LEADS 10-2

NOVAK DJOKOVIC (SRB X4)	FAST FACTS	STEFANOS TSITSIPAS (GRE X3)
35	Age	24
5	World ranking	4
$164,786,653	Prize money	$23,655,204
92	Career titles	9
21	Grand Slam titles	0
Champion (2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2020, 2021)	Australian Open best	Final (2023)
Goran Ivanisevic	Coach	Apostolos Tsitsipas
	ROAD TO FINAL	
bt Roberto Carballes Baena (ESP) 6-3, 6-4, 6-0	1st rd	bt Quentin Halys (FRA) 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (6)
bt Enzo Couacaud (FRA) 6-1, 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-0	2nd rd	bt Rinky Hijikata (AUS) 6-3, 6-0, 6-2
bt Grigor Dimitrov (BUL x27) 7-6 (7), 6-3, 6-4,	3rd rd	bt Tallon Griekspoor (NED) 6-2, 7-6 (5), 6-3
bt Alex de Minaur (AUS x22) 6-2, 6-1, 6-2	4th rd	bt Jannik Sinner (ITA x15) 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 6-3
bt Andrey Rublev (RUS x5) 6-1, 6-2, 6-4	Quarterfinal	bt Jiri Lehecka (CZE) 6-3, 7-6 (2), 6-4
bt Tommy Paul (USA) 7-5, 6-1, 6-2	Semifinal	bt Karen Khachanov (RUS x18) 7-6 (2), 6-4, 6-7 (6), 6-3

I think that the experience of being in this particular situation and circumstances (being in a final) before helps. I think also the fact that I never lost the Australian Open final definitely serves as a great confidence-booster prior to Sunday. — Djokovic

I couldn't be more ready for this moment. This is a very humbling opportunity for me, being in the finals here means a lot. — Tsitsipas

LIVE ON SONY PICTURES NETWORK @ 2 PM

EXPRESS READ

Bengaluru FC beat Chennaiyin FC in ISL

CHENNAI: Bengaluru FC beat Chennaiyin FC 3-1 in the ISL here on Saturday. Sivasakthi Narayanan put Bengaluru in front in the 15th minute. Three minutes later, Narayanan bagged his second and Rohit Kumar further added a third in the 30th minute. Chennaiyin's Edwin Sydney Vanspaul scored his first league goal of the season with a left-footed finish in the 59th minute.

WPL: Mithali Gujarat Giants' mentor

AHMEDABAD: Former India captain Mithali Raj has been roped in as mentor and advisor by Women's Premier League (WPL) side Gujarat Giants ahead of the inaugural season, which will take place in March-April this year. Mithali, the highest run-getter in women's international cricket, had retired last year.

Bolt gets rid of business manager over fraud case

AP @ San Juan

JAMAICAN sprinter Usain Bolt told reporters Friday that he is baffled over how $12.7 million of his money has gone missing from a local private investment firm that authorities are investigating as part of a massive fraud that began more than a decade ago.

Bolt also said he has fired his business manager, adding that it was not an amicable split. When asked if he was "broke," the retired star athlete laughed.

"I'm not broke, but it's definitely put a damper on me," he said. "It was for my future. Everybody knows I have three kids. I'm still looking out for my parents, and I still want to live very well." Bolt's attorneys have said the athlete's account with Kingston-based Stocks and Securities Limited dwindled from nearly $12.8 million to some $12,000. They had given the company until Friday to return the money or face civil and criminal action.

It wasn't immediately clear whether any action had been taken as of late Friday. Attorney Linton P. Gordon did not return a message seeking comment.

He told the Jamaica Observer newspaper that the public should anticipate the "expected and the unexpected" in the case.

"There is nothing to say at this stage, given what is happening," he was quoted as saying.

India look to keep T20I series alive

AGENCIES @Lucknow

INDIA will have to raise their game a few notches as the Hardik Pandya-led side faces a must-win situation to level the three-match T20I series against New Zealand, here on Sunday.

The home side were caught in a spin web on the Ranchi pitch and lost the opening match by 21 runs on Friday.

The loss also highlighted India's bowling profligacy, especially by the pace duo of Arshdeep Singh and Umran Malik.

If tearaway pacer Malik conceded 16 runs in one over, Arshdeep leaked 27 runs in the last over, which put pressure on the India batters while chasing.

India's batters were off to an inauspicious start with the top-three managing just 15 runs. The hosts ended up scoring 155/9, which would have been a par score to defend on the wicket, as indicated by Washington Sundar after the match.

The onus will be on Ishan Kishan to make some runs for the home side

"150 would've been par and we would've been very happy with it," the India all-rounder said.

Skipper Pandya, however, is unlikely to bring in the uncapped pace bowler Mukesh Kumar for the second T20I and will probably back Arshdeep.

While Shubman Gill, who has been in red-hot form in the ODIs, has played just four T20Is and is still learning the nuances of the shortest format, the big concern will be the two key batters — Ishan Kishan and Deepak Hooda.

Occupying the opening spot, Kishan is nowhere near the ominous form he showed while slamming a record-breaking ODI double-century against Bangladesh last December.

Since then, Ishan's scores in the last seven innings in both ODIs and T20Is read 37, 2, 1, 5, 8 n.o., 17 and 4.

Hooda, too, hasn't enjoyed much success as a lower middle-order batter and averages just 17.88 in the last 13 innings, with the highest being the unbeaten 41 against Sri Lanka at the Wankhede.

His innings of 10 runs from 10 balls at No. 7 on Friday lacked impact and the rotation of strike also came under scrutiny, especially when the New Zealand spinners were bowling.

Live on Star Sports Network @ 7pm

Shafali in pursuit of WC title for India

AGENCIES @ Potchefstroom

BATTING sensation Shafali Verma will chase history when she leads India against England in the first-ever ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup final here on Sunday.

The Indian women's cricket team has never won a World Cup at any level and Verma, who has been part of two World Cup and one Commonwealth Games final with the senior team, will look to bring the elusive title home. The seniors have made the World Cup final on three occasions across formats only to have returned with bitter memories — losing to Australia by 98 runs in 2005 and losing to England by 9 runs in 2017 in the ODIs, and in T20Is they went down in the 2020 final to the Aussies by 85 runs.

Record levels of torrential rain in Auckland left three dead with a fourth person missing, New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins said on Saturday after flooding devastated the country's largest city

France on Saturday said it had extended until February 15 Covid tests for travellers arriving from China due to the "evolving situation". The tests had initially been decreed until January 31.

US to ease rules for blood donations by gays

If finalised, many gay and bisexual men in monogamous relationships would be able to donate blood for first time. It's the latest move to expand donor eligibility

HEALTH

WASHINGTON: The US is moving to further ease restrictions on blood donations from gay and bisexual men and other groups that typically face higher risks of HIV.

The Food and Drug Administration on Friday announced draft guidelines that would do away with the current three-month abstinence requirement for donations from men who have sexual relations with men. Instead, all potential donors would be screened with a new questionnaire that evaluates their individual risks for HIV based on sexual behaviour, recent partners and other factors.

If finalised, many gay and bisexual men in monogamous relationships would be able to donate blood for the first time in decades. It's the latest move by the FDA to broaden donor eligibility, with the potential to boost donations.

"We feel confident that the safety of the blood supply will be maintained," FDA's Dr. Peter Marks told reporters.

Tubes direct blood from a donor into a bag in Davenport, Iowa | AP

Gay rights groups have long opposed blanket restrictions on who can give blood, saying they discriminate against the LGBTQ community.

Medical societies including the American Medical Association have also said such exclusions are unnecessary given advances in technology to test blood for infectious diseases.

"Current and former blood donation policies made unfounded assumptions about gay and bisexual men and really entangled individuals' identity with their likelihood of having HIV," said Sarah Warbelow of the Human Rights Campaign, an LGBTQ advocacy group. The US and many other countries started blocking blood donations from gay and bisexual men during the early 1980's AIDS epidemic, aiming to prevent the spread of HIV through the blood supply.

In 2015, the FDA dropped the lifetime ban and replaced it with a one-year abstinence requirement. Then in 2020, the agency shortened the abstinence period to three months, after donations plummeted during the pandemic.

Regulators said there has been no negative impact on the blood supply as a results of those changes.

The FDA sets requirements and procedures for blood banks throughout the US. All potential donors answer questions about their sexual history, injectable drug use and any recent tattoos or piercing, among other factors that can contribute to the spread of blood-borne infections. Donated blood is then tested for HIV, hepatitis C, syphilis and other infectious diseases.

Under the new proposal, men who have sexual relations with men will be asked if they have had new or multiple partners in the last three months. Those who answer affirmatively to either question would be barred from donating until a later date. The policy would also apply to women who have sexual relations with gay or bisexual men.

Anyone who has ever tested positive for HIV would continue to be ineligible to donate blood. Those taking pills to prevent HIV through sexual contact would also be barred, until 3 months after their last dose.

DANCING TO KEEP THE EVIL AT BAY

Dancers known as Kukeri, wearing costumes decorated with bells, perform during the International Festival of the Masquerade Games in Pernik, near Sofia, Bulgaria. | AFP

Oz looks for lost radioactive capsule

RADIATION

SYDNEY: An urgent search was underway in Western Australia on Saturday after a tiny radioactive capsule was reported to have gone missing while being transported from a mine.

The 8mm by 6mm silver capsule, which is used in mining operations, has been unaccounted for since mid-January, emergency services said. It contains the radioactive substance Caesium-137, according to Western Australia's Department of Health.

The capsule is believed to have fallen off a truck while being moved to a storage facility.

Health officials have warned it can cause radiation burns or sickness if handled. Fire and emergency services said the capsule was lost between the remote town of Newman and the suburbs of northern Perth, a distance of about 1,400 km. Officials have warned the public not to handle the capsule if found and to contact emergency services.

Swiss may ban Nazi symbols

It legal to display Nazi symbols in Switzerland. But moves are under way to change things at least in Geneva. A cross-party group of lawmakers in the region proposed changing the constitution to "prohibit the display or wearing of Nazi symbols, emblems or any other Nazi object" in public. Geneva's legislature debated the proposal on Friday—International Holocaust Remembrance Day—and decided by 56 votes to 28 to send the plan for closer scrutiny to its human rights commission.. The proposal, if accepted by the Geneva council, would then have to be approved by Switzerland's federal parliament in Bern and then by a referendum in Geneva.

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Office: 1st Floor, 'Dare House', No.2, N.S.C. Bose Road, Chennai - 600 001
Branch Office: Municipal No.45, (Old Nos. 45& 45/1), Second Floor, Lalbagh Road, Bangalore - 560 027.

POSSESSION NOTICE (Rule 8 (1) (For Immovable Property)

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 hereinafter called the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13[12] read with Rules 3 of the Security Interest [Enforcement] Rules, 2002 issued demand notices calling upon the borrowers, whose names have been indicated in Column [B] below on dates specified in Column [C] to repay the outstanding amount indicated in Column [D] below with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties mortgaged with the Company described in Column [E] herein below on the respective dates mentioned in Column [F] in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules made there under.
The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
The borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned in Column [E] below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of **M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited** for an amount mentioned in Column [D] and interest thereon.

Sl No	Name and Address of Borrower & Loan Account Number	Date of Demand Notice	Out Standing Amount	Details of the Immovable Property	Date of Possession
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
1.	**1. Chandru R, 2.Uma L, 3. DMR Enterprises,** No.160, Hennur Main Road, Kacharakanahalli, Bangalore – 560084. **Loan Account No. X0HEBAN00002563324**	18.11.2022	**Rs.29,43,864/- as on 17.11.2022 and interest thereon**	All that piece and parcel of property bearing Flat No:102, in the First floor, 1270 Sq.ft of Super built up area, along with 554.69 Sq.ft of Proportionate UDS, constructed the residential apartment Known as "Asian Laasya" in the property bearing Sy.No:27/2, (converted vide Conversion order bearing ALN(EKHW) CR:24/2011-12) Situated at: Nallurahalli Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Presently within the limit of BBMP and bounded on; East by: Land bearing Sy.No:27/3; West by: Land bearing Sy.No:26, North by: Land bearing Sy. No:27/1A & 27/1B; South by : Road.	25.01.2023
2.	**1. Gafur Khan Jiyaulla, 2. Rubeenan A, 3. NAS Catering and Cooking All residing at:** No.45, Siluvepura Main Road, Kasagattapura, Bangalore Rural, Karnataka - 560090 **4. M S Welding Work,** No.863, 6th Cross, Chikkabanavara, Bangalore Rural, Karnataka - 560090 **Loan Account No. HE01GAL00000012236**	10.11.2022	**Rs.20,16,590/- as on 05.11.2022 and interest thereon**	All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.45,Katha No.54,Situated at Kasagattapura Village,Hesaragatta Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Presently within the Kasagattapura Village Panchayath, and bounded on: East by : Property No.47 West by: 30 Feet Road North by: Property No.44, South by: Property No.46 Measuring East to west 40 Feet and North to South 30 Feet, in all Measuring 1200 Square Feet, along with building constructed thereon. within the registration district of Bangalore and sub registration office.	25.01.2023
3.	**1. Lakshmipathi P, 2. Lakshmi C,** Site No 05, F - 01, K No 152, Hora Mavu, Balaji Nivas, 4th Cross, Easter Enclave, Bangalore - 560043. **Loan Account No. X0HEBAN00001143975**	20.10.2022	**Rs.20,95,232/- as on 18.10.2022 and interest thereon**	All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.5, Property No.84/2, H.I.Khatha No.152, Situated at Horamavu Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore. Presently comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP and bounded on: East by: Site No.6, West By: Site No.4, North by: Road, South by: Private Property Measuring East to West: 40 ft and North to South: 55ft and building constructed thereon within the Registration District of Bangalore and Sub Registration Office.	25.01.2023
4.	**1. Venugopal R, 2.Indra .V,** Both residing at: No.245/1, Near Govenament School, Horamavu Agara Kaltanagar, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560 043. **Loan Account No. X0HEBAN00001691834**	10.11.2022	**Rs.24,30,372/- as on 05.11.2022 and interest thereon**	All that piece and parcel residential property bearing municipal khatha no.131/247, BBMP Ward No.25, Situated at Krishnaraja puram Hobli, Horamavu, Bangalore East Taluk, presently within the limits of BBMP and bounded on: East by: Property belongs to Sri. Papanna West by: Property belongs to Narayanappa, North by:Road and South by: Property belongs to Sri.R.Venkatesh Measuring: North 44 ft South 34 ft, East 55 ft, West 77 ft within the Registration District of bangalore and Sub Registration Office.	25.01.2023

Date : 29.01.2022
Place: Bangalore
Authorised Officer
M/s. Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002
Sale of Immovable Property
(Under Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules2002)
DCB BANK

Public E Auction Notice for sale of Immovable Assets Charged to the DCB BANK under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the borrower, co-borrowers and the guarantors in particular, by the Authorized Officer, that the below mentioned property is mortgaged to DCB BANK LTD. The Authorized Officer of the Bank has taken the symbolic possession under the provisions of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.The property will be sold by E-auction as mentioned below for recovery of the below mentioned dues and further interest, charges and cost etc. as per the details set out in the table: The property will be sold "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" condition. This is also a notice to the borrower, co-borrowers and the guarantors of the loan about holding of the E- auction of sale on the mentioned date, if their outstanding dues are not repaid in full.

SL. No	CUSTOMER NAME	OUTSTANDING AMOUNT	BUILT UP AREA	RESERVE PRICE	EMD AMOUNT
1	Ravi Kumar B	Rs. 4,16,207/- as on (19-12-2022)	800 Sq. Ft	7300000/-	730000/-
Property Address: Assessment no. 55/1, and southern portion of site no. 02, assessment no. 55/1, Katha No. 55/1, situated at Kottigepalya Village, Srigandhada-kavalu Village, Yeswanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk.					
2	P M Aboobakar	Rs. 35,64,744/- as on (19-12-2022)	600 Sq. Ft	3480000/-	348000/-
Property Address: Site no. 30, Panchayat Katha No. 315, situated at Hulimangala village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore.					
3	Ravi Kumar V	Rs.10,67,855/- as on (19-12-2022)	1144 Sq. Ft	550000/-	55000/-
Property Address: Site no 24, House List Khataa No.76, Situated at Halehalli Village, Bidarahalli, Hobli, Bangalore.					
DATE AND TIME OF INSPECTION: 20-02-2023 From 11 am To 4 pm contact Person Mr Narendra				**LOCATION: Bangalore**	
DATE OF E-AUCTION: 27-02-2023 From 11 am					
4	V M Manjunath	Rs.10,16,604/- as on (19-12-2022)	1550 Sq. Ft	4550000/-	455000/-
Property Address: Site no 180, Khataa No.76, old no108/1, property no.40, situated at Vasudevapura Village, Tharalu Village Panchayath, Gulakamale Dhakle, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk.					
5	Venugopal R	Rs. 5,01,093/- as on (19-12-2022)	432 Sq. Ft	2650000/-	265000/-
Property Address: Old site no.112, Old V P Katha no.75 presently bearing new site no.11, new V P Katha no.659, situated at Kothanur Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, Karnataka.					
6	Mohamed Junedulla	Rs. 4,17,808/- as on (19-12-2022)	1200 Sq. Ft	13930000/-	1393000/-
Property Address: Old homes line no.337/38, Khata no.344/2, situated at Bilekahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk presently coming presently bearing New Muncipal no.12. situated at 18th main, road, N S Palya, Bangalore, Karnataka.					
DATE AND TIME OF INSPECTION: 21-02-2023 From 11 am To 4 pm contact Person Mr Narendra				**LOCATION: Bangalore**	
DATE OF E-AUCTION: 27-02-2023 From 11 am					
7	Selvi L	Rs. 42,30,246/- as on (19-12-2022)	600 Sq. Ft	5300000/-	530000/-
Property Address: Property bearing old no. 6, new no. 7, PID no. 96-336-7, new PID no. 022-W0125-3, Patel Muniyappa Layout, Vishwanatha Nagenahalli Village, BBMP Ward no. 96, Hebbal Hobli, Bangalore, Banglore-560032, Karnataka.					
8	N Suresh	Rs. 21,35,168/- as on (19-12-2022)	600 Sq. Ft	5000000/-	500000/-
Property Address: No. 37, property no. 54/2/37, Katha no. 790/783/769/783/54/2/37, Garvebhavi Palya Village, Hongasandra Dakhale, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, ward no. 190, Bangalore, Bangalore-560068, Karnataka.					
9	Devaraj U M	Rs. 6,24,066/- as on (19-12-2022)	336 Sq. Ft	16,00,000/-	160000/-
Property Address: Khata No. 1869, Old Khata no 1590/1388/10, Kurubarapete # Hoskote - 562114, Bangalore-562114, Karnataka.					
10	R Sundari	Rs. 12,59,801/- as on (19-12-2022)	414 Sq. Ft	5065000/-	506500/-
Property Address: Corporation No.9, New No. 9/1, Lazar Road, 4th Cross, Frazer Town, Banglore-560005, Karnataka.					
DATE AND TIME OF INSPECTION: 22-02-2023 From 11 am To 4 pm contact Person Mr Narendra				**LOCATION: Bangalore**	
DATE OF E-AUCTION: 27-02-2023 From 11 am					

Date and time of submission of EMD on or before 25th FEB 2023 before 5 pm with request letter of participation KYC, Pan Card, Proof of EMD at email id narendra.ninganeedu@dcbbank.com-9900432255
The intending purchasers / bidders are required to deposit EMD amount either through NEFT / RTGS in the name of the beneficiary, DCB Bank, Account Name – RAOU NON PDC, Account No. 0382955100223. IFSC Code DCBL0000038, M G Road Branch Bangalore.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE E-AUCTION ARE AS UNDER:
1. E-Auction is being held on "as is where is "and "whatever there is Basis" and will be conducted "On Line". The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider M/s Foreclosure India (Contact No 9900432255 at their web portal https://www.bankeauctions.com. E-auction tender document containing online e-auction bid form, Declaration, General Terms and Conditions of online auction sale are available in https://www.bankeauctions.com.
2. To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property / ices. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrance, tile of the property / ices put on auction and claims / rights / dues / affecting the property. prior to submitting their bid. The e- Auction advertisement does not constitute and will be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether know or unknown to the Bank. The authorized Officer / Secured creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims / right / dues.
3. The EMD is refundable without any interest if the bid is not successful. The undersigned reserve the rights to accept or reject any or all the offers or adjourned / postpone the sale without assigning any reason thereof. If the offer is accepted, the purchaser will have to deposit 25% (less EMD Amount) of the sale price immediately on the auction day and if the purchaser fails to deposit the same, the amount deposited towards earnest money shall be forfeited and the property shall forthwith be sold again. The balance amount of purchase price shall be payable on or before the 15th day of confirmation of sale and in default of payment within the stipulated period, the deposit towards earnest money will be forfeited and property will be re-sold. Any other statutory dues / taxes / stamp duty / registration fee / transfer fee have to be borne by the buyer separately.
4. The sale shall be subject to rules / conditions prescribed under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

The borrower, co-borrowers and the guarantors are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and the balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date : 28-01-2023
Place : Bangalore
Sd/-
Authorised Officer
DCB Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE
FOR LOST DOCUMENT

My Client **Mr. JOHN CLINTON. S**, S/o Late Stephen. S, Resident of No. 170, 2nd Cross, Near Horamavu Panchayath, Jayanthi Nagar Extn, Horamavu Bangalore - 560043, has irretrievable **lost the original Sale Deed dated 10/07/1991**, Registered as Document No: **1923/1991-92,** at the office of the sub registrar K R Puram. My Client has Lodged a Police Complaint for lost article on 27/01/2023 under acknowledgment issued by the Bangalore City Police, bearing SL No.456648, Lost Report No.0456648/2023
If any person/s found the said sale deed please come forward with in a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice and hand over the same to the under signed, will be suitably rewarded. If anyone has already carried out any transaction or any transaction is in the process of being carried out using the missing document, kindly inform the undersigned party in writing at the below mentioned address within 07 days from this paper publication. Else there won't be any further claims from thereon.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Northern Portion of **Site No: 18,** (Old House List No: 38/2) **New House List Khata No: 88/2P,** measuring (totally 1200 Square Feet), Now measuring East to West: **40 Feet** and North to South **15 Feet,** totally **600 Square Feet,** Situated at Horamavu Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk.

Radesh BE, LLB, LL.M
DIRECTOR MKM LEGAL SOLUTIONS PVT LTD
Contact No.: 9008242426
Mail: radesh@mkmlegalsolutions.com
Office at: 3rd Floor, SMN Complex, Above Favara Car World, Thubarahalli, Bengaluru - 560067.

SHRADHANJALI

Dr. M.K. Panduranga Setty
04.08.1933 to 21.01.2023
The Office Bearers and Members of the Karnataka Roller Flour Millers Association
are deeply saddened by the passing of
Dr. M.K. Panduranga Setty,
who was an eminent educationist and as past President of The Roller Flour Millers Federation of India was the prime mover behind the establishment of the **International School of Milling Technology at CFTRI, Mysore.**
May his soul rest in peace.

TATA
TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Regd. Office: 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganapatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai – 400013. **CIN No. U67190MH2008PLC187552**
Branch Address: No 82/1, Ground Floor, Krishna Towers, Bengaluru 560025.
Mob: 9900880727

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)
(As per rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the TATA Capital Housing Finance Limited., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 22nd July, 2022 calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of the said notice.
The borrower, having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, in particular and the public, in general, that as per the order of the Hon'ble 32nd Addl CMM Court at Bangalore, dated 21/12/2022, passed in Crl.Misc.No.6777/2022, the Court Commissioner has taken Physical Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him and handed over the physical possession to the undersigned Authorised Officer of Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited on 25 Jan 2023.
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
The borrower, in particular, and the public in general, is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited**, for an amount referred to below along with interest thereon and penal interest, charges, costs etc. from the date of demand notice.

Loan Account No.	Name of Obligor(s)/ Legal Heir(s)/ Legal Representative(s)	Amount & Date of Demand Notice	Date of Symbolic Possession
10581107 & TCHHL0646 000100074512	**Mrs. GAYATHRI R as Borrower and Mr. KRISHNA KV as the Co-Borrower**	Due as on 22nd July, 2022 Rs.17,63,298/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Eight Only)	25th January, 2023

Description of Secured Assets/Immovable Properties; All that the piece and parcel of the Western Portion of the Property bearing Site No. 202/A, Guru Latha Layout, Rajarajeshwari, CMC Katha No's. 6/1 & 6/2 situated at Hosakerehalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobili, Bengaluru South Taluk, presently bearing Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike property Katha No. 815/433/430/202/A, BBMP Ward No.26, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Range, measuring East to West: 19 + 3/2 Feet , South to North : 30' Feet, in total 330 Sq. Ft ., along and together with 4 Squares RCC Roofed residential house with all civic amenities, **bounded on : East By :** Remaining Portion of the Property, **West By :** Road, **North By :** Site No.202, **South By :** Road.

For Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited
Date: 25th January 2023
Place: Bangalore
Sd/-Authorised Officer
Contact No. (022) 61827414, (022) 61827375

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Office: 1st Floor, 'Dare House', No.2, N.S.C. Bose Road, Chennai-600001.
Branch Address: 2nd Floor, No.780, 2nd Main Road, Near Lalitha Gas Agency, Kengeri Satellite Town, Kengeri, Bengaluru, Karnataka–560060.
Branch Address: Municipal No.45, (Old Nos. 45& 45/1), Second Floor, Lalbagh Road, Bangalore-560027.

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13[2] OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002

You, the under mentioned Borrower / Mortgagor is hereby informed that the company has initiated proceedings against you under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and that the Notice under 13 (2) of the Act sent to you by Registered Post Ack. Due for Borrower/s has been returned undelivered. Hence, you are hereby called upon to take notice and pay the outstanding loan amount mentioned against the said account with interest accruing there from within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the company will proceed against you by exercising its right under Sub-Sec (4) of Section 13 of the Act by enforcing the below mentioned security to realize its dues with interests and costs. It is needles to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the company.

Sl. No.	Loan Account No. & Name and Address of the Borrower/s	Loan Amount(s)	Date of Demand Notice & Amount Outstanding
1.	**Loan Account No's: HE01KEE00000024111:- Ramesh Yadav Kalyan Singh Yadav (Applicant),** No.3/1, Biandahalli Road, Chandrasheka Bldg., Machohalli Machohalli, Bangalore, Karnataka-562130. **Daminir (Co-Applicant),** No.3/1, Biandahalli Road, Chandrasheka Bldg., Machohalli, Bangalore, Karnataka-562130. **Sree Supriya Multispeciality Hospital (Co-Applicant),** No.3/1, Biandahalli Road,Chandrasheka Bldg, Machohalli, Bangalore Karnataka 562130	**Rs. 1,00,00,000/-**	**14-01-2023 & Rs.1,02,28,329/-** as on 06-01-2023 + unapplied interest & Charges thereon.
	Description of the properties/ Secured Assets: All that Piece and Parcel of Property Bearing Residential Site No.07 And 08 And Residential Site No.11 and No.12 Formed In Property Assessment No.15/5, Machohalli Grama, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Presently Within The Limits Of Machohalli Village Panchayath and **Bounded on: East by:** 30 Feet Road, **West by:** 30 Feet Road, **North by:** Site No.9 and Site No.10 Presently Private Property, **South by:** Site No.6 And Site No.13 Presently Private Property; Measuring East To West 80Feet And North To South 40 Feet, In All Measuring 3200 Square Feet; along with Building constructed thereon. Within The Registration District of Bangalore And Sub-Registration Office.		
2.	**Loan Account No's: X0HEBAN00001594147 :- Manjunath A (Applicant),** No.1, Janvika Nilaya, Near Anjaneya Temple, Kareguddanahalli, Abbigere Chikkabanavara, Bangalore North, Karnataka-560090. **Sumasree N (Co-Applicant),** No.1, Janvika Nilaya, Near Anjaneya Temple, Kareguddanahalli, Abbigere Chikkabanavara, Bangalore North, Karnataka-560090.	**Rs. 30,00,000/-**	**14-01-2023 & Rs.20,75,213/-** as on 06-01-2023 + unapplied interest & Charges thereon.
	Description of the properties/ Secured Assets: All that Piece and Parcel of Property Bearing Site No.1 &2 Khatha No.863, Sy.No.10/6 situated at Kereguddahalli Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Presently Within the Limits of BBMP **and Bounded on: East by:** Private Property, **West by:** Site No.03, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Private Property. Measuring East to West: 51 Sq.Ft and North to South: On Eastern Side 45 Sq.Ft and Western Side: 44.3/2Ft, Total Measuring 2277.15 Sq.Ft.		
3.	**Loan Account No's: X0HEBAN00001611863 & X0HEBAN00002014788 :- Ravi K M (Applicant),** No.617, Chethana Nilaya, 4 Main, 1 A Crs, MES Road, Muthyala Nagar, Bangalore North, Karnataka-560054. **Veena N (Co-Applicant),** No.617, Chethana Nilaya, 4th Main, 1st A Cross, MES Road, Muthyala Nagar, Bangalore North, Bangalore North, Karnataka-560054. **Veena N (Co-Applicant),** No.617, Chethana Nilaya, 4 Main, 1 A Crs, Mes Road, Muthyala Nagar, Bangalore North, Karnataka-560054. **M/s. Sri Maruthi Enterprises (Co-Applicant),** No.617/1, 4th Main, 1st A Cross, MES Road, Muthyalanagar, Bangalore North, Karnataka-560054. **Muniraju K H (Co-Applicant),** No.617, Chethana Nilaya, 4 Main, 1 A Crs, MES Road,Muthyala Nagar, Bangalore North, Karnataka-560054. **Gowramma R (Co-Applicant),** No.617, Chethana Nilaya, 4 Main, 1 A Crs, MES Road, Muthyala Nagar, Bangalore North, Karnataka-560054.	**Rs. 46,00,000/- & Rs. 21,67,899/-**	**14-01-2023 & Rs. 51,30,833/-** as on 06-01-2023 + unapplied interest & Charges thereon.
	Description of the properties/ Secured Assets: All that Piece and Parcel of Property Bearing Present Municipal No.17, 1st Cross , Muthyalanagar, Jalahalli, Old No.2, Sy.No.30/11, situated at Jalahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore presently within Limits of BBMP **and Bounded on: East by:** Site No.3, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Sy.No. 28/4 Site No.20 &21, **South by:** Site No.11, Measuring East to West 40 Ft And North To South 40 Ft along with Building.		
4.	**Loan Account No's: X0HEBAN00002132074 :- Shankar K.V. (Applicant),** 53/45, 11th Main Road, Padmanabha Nagar, Bangalore South, Karnataka-560070. **Alfha Creations (Co-Applicant),** No.145, 2 Floor, Next to HP Petrol Bunk, 5th Main Road, Chamarajpete, Bangalore South, Karnataka-560018. **Dr. Prabhakar Kore Convention Center (Co-Applicant),** No.114B, Tumkur Main Service Road, Peenya Industrial Area, Bangalore North, Karnataka-560058. **Ranjitha N.J (Co-Applicant),** 53/45, 11th Main Road, Padmanabha Nagar, Bangalore South, Karnataka-560070.	**Rs. 1,00,00,000/-**	**13-01-2023 & Rs.77,84,593/-** as on 13-01-2023 + unapplied interest & Charges thereon.
	Description of the properties/ Secured Assets: All the Piece and Parcel Property Bearing Site No.19 In Sy.No.19/3, 27/2, And 28/1, situated at Kadirenahally Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Layout Formed By Kanaka Gruha Nirmana Sahakara Sangha Niyamitha, Presently Comes under the Limits of BBMP, Ward No.181, PID No.55/709/19 **and Bounded on: East by:** Park, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Site No.18, **South by:** Site No.20 , Measuring East to West: 40¼ Ft, and North to South: 29¼ Ft in Total 1177.30 Ft, together with Constructed Building.		
5.	**Loan Account No's: X0HEBAN00002033899, X0HEBAN00002309744 & X0HEGAL00002902641 :- Sridhar R (Applicant),** Site No.9, Katha No.43/5, Varanasi, Jinkethimmanahalli, Bidarah, Bangalore, Karnataka-560036. **M/s. Sridhar Rice Traders (Co-Applicant),** No.1, Katha 43, Vara Jinkethimmanahalli, Bidarahalli, Bangalore, Karnataka-560036. **Shobha Doraiswamy (Co-Applicant),** No.1, Katha 43, Vara Jinkethimmanahalli, Bidarahalli, Bangalore, Karnataka-560036. **Shobha Doraiswamy (Co-Applicant),** Site No.9, Katha No.43/5, Varanasi, Jinkethimanahalli, Bidarahalli, Bangalore, Karnataka-560036. **M/s. Sridhar Rice Traders (Co-Applicant),** No.1, 1st Cross, Jinkethimmanahalli, Anandpura Main Road, Anandpura, Bangalore, Karnataka-560036. **M/s. Sridhar Rice Traders (Co-Applicant),** No.9, 2nd Cross, Varanasi, Jinkethimmanahalli, R.M.Nagar, Bangalore, Karnataka-560016.	**Rs. 50,00,000/-, Rs. 50,00,000/- & Rs. 28,00,000/-**	**14-01-2023 & Rs. 1,10,69,332/-** as on 06-01-2023 + unapplied interest & Charges thereon.
	Description of the properties/ Secured Assets: All that Piece and Parcel of Property Bearing BBMP Site No.9 Khatha No.43/5, situated at Varanasi @ Jinkethimmanahalli, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore now comes under BBMP Limits, as **and Bounded on: East by:** 27 Feet Road, **West by:** Private Property, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Site No.1 , Measuring East to West 40 Feet and North To South 60 Feet In All Measuring 2400 Square Feet Along With Building Constructed Thereon within the Registration District of Bangalore And Sub-Registration Office.		

Date: 29-01-2023
Place: Bangalore
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited.

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